Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-92-038
Wednesday
26 February 1992

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-92-038 *26 February 1992*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

ARMS CONTROL & DISARMAMENT

Baker Visit, Reduction in Nuclear Arms Viewed *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 19 Feb]* 1
Weapons Transfer From Belarus, Ukraine Denied *[INTERFAX]* 1
General Questions Yeltsin's Arms Initiatives *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 14 Feb]* 1
Company Undertakes 'Dangerous Waste' Destruction *[Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER 14 Feb]* 3
Poll on Concentrating Nuclear Arms in Russia *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 19 Feb]* 4
Poll Views Possibility of Nuclear Weapons' Use *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 15 Feb]* 4

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

NATO's Woerner on Areas of CIS Cooperation *[TASS]* 6
Republic Presidents To Sign CSCE Final Act *[TASS]* 6
Moldova's Snegur Comments *[TASS]* 6
CSCE Commission Ends Nagorno-Karabakh Visit *[IZVESTIYA 21 Feb]* 7
Vilnius Seminar Focuses on East Europe Security *[Vilnius Radio]* 7
Submarine Involved in Clash Returns to Norfolk *[Moscow TV]* 8
Vietnam MIA's Transported via PRC 'Windows' *[KOMMERSANT 17-24 Feb]* 8
CIA Declassification, 'Openness' Noted *[RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA 21 Feb]* 9
Azerbaijani, Armenian Views on Baker Visit *[LITERATURNAYA GAZETA 19 Feb]* 9
Baker Tour Highlights Central Asia Concerns *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 22 Feb]* 10
CIS Deputy Commander Arrives in Beijing *[TASS]* 11
Latin America Willing to Receive Immigrants *[Moscow International]* 12

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Commonwealth

Representatives Discuss Debt Obligations in Kiev 13
15 Delegations To Attend *[Moscow TV]* 13
Agenda Outlined *[POSTFACTUM]* 13
Some Refuse Joint Responsibility *[INTERFAX]* 13
Conference Ends *[TASS]* 14
Adoption of Military Agreements a 'Success' *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 19 Feb]* 14
Comparison of Strategic Forces Agreement 15
Comparison of Trade and Economic Accord 15
Comparison of Minsk Agreement on Supplying Army 15
Comparison of Defense Budget Agreement 16
Comparison of General Purpose Forces Agreement 16

Military

Shaposhnikov Views Future Role of Armed Forces *[Moscow Radio]* 16
General on Combat Readiness, Manning, Future *[Moscow Radio]* 17
Coordinating Council Chairman Interviewed *[PRAVDA 22 Feb]* 19
Northern Fleet Situation: 'There is No Fuel' *[Moscow TV]* 20

Economic & Social

Threat of Controllers' Strike 'Not Eliminated' *[Russian TV]* 21
Industrialists, Entrepreneurs Gather in Moscow *[KURANTY 25 Feb]* 21

Media

TASS Carries Press Review for 26 Feb 21

RUSSIA

International Affairs

Woerner Sees 'New Chapter' in Relations *[INTERFAX]* 23
NATO Concerns for CIS 'Destiny' Eyed *[Moscow International]* 23
CIS To Attend NATO Council Session *[Lisbon TV]* 23
Khasbulatov Welcomes 'Positive Role' *[TASS]* 24
Yeltsin, Lukin Discuss Relations With U.S. *[TASS]* 24
Text of Khasbulatov Strasbourg Speech Issued 24
Discusses Developing 'Civil Society' *[Russian TV]* 24
Assesses Russia as 'European Power' *[Russian TV]* 25
Burbulis, Latvia's Godmanis on Reforms *[Moscow TV]* 26
Economic Agreement Detailed *[TASS]* 26
Latvia Competing for Foreign Investment *[TASS]* 26
Kozyrev Plans To Preserve 'Positive' Diplomacy *[INTERFAX]* 27
Churkin Briefs on Kozyrev's Africa Tour *[TASS]* 28
Negotiations Will Not 'Be Easy' *[Moscow International]* 28
Popov in Vienna Warns of 'Red-Brown Bloc' *[Vienna NEUE KRONEN-ZEITUNG 25 Feb]* 29
Shakray Comments on Policy Toward Ukraine *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 20 Feb]* 29
'Private Enterprise' on Moscow Seminar Agenda *[TASS]* 30
Bilateral Space Cooperation Discussed With U.S. *[Moscow International]* 30
Commentary on History of Chinese Border Accord *[Moscow International]* 30
Yakut Stock Company Seeks Japanese Partners *[TASS]* 31
Kuril Islands 'Fate' Rests With People *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 20 Feb]* 31
Oil Deliveries to DPRK Shrink *[TASS]* 32
German Aid Shipment Arrives in Kaliningrad *[IZVESTIYA 24 Feb]* 32

Federation Affairs

Yeltsin, Rutskoy Economic Talks 'Constructive' *[INTERFAX]* 32
Yeltsin Meets With Parliament Committee Leaders *[TASS]* 32
Urges Laws To Help Reform *[Moscow TV]* 33
Politics Dependent on Economy *[TASS]* 33
Yeltsin Says No 'Confrontation' *[Russian TV]* 33
Aide on 25 Feb Meeting *[INTERFAX]* 33
Yeltsin Signs Decree for Economic Reform Fund *[INTERFAX]* 34
Decree Establishes Intellectual Property Agency *[TASS]* 34
Rutskoy Spokesman: Coup Report 'Inaccurate' *[INTERFAX]* 34
Gaydar Reportedly Requested Ministry's Division *[INTERFAX]* 34
Gaydar, Khlystun Hold Meeting With Scientists *[Radio Rossii]* 35
Officials Discuss Security Ministry's Future *[INTERFAX]* 35
Discussion Issues Detailed *[TASS]* 35
Security Minister Cited *[INTERFAX]* 35
Pastukhin Appointed Deputy Foreign Minister *[INTERFAX]* 35
Deputy Foreign Minister Profiled *[INTERFAX]* 35
New Culture Minister Makes Program Public *[TASS]* 36
Further Reportage on Armed Forces Day Events 36
Public Order Chief Cited *[PRAVDA 24 Feb]* 36
Press Briefings Held *[Moscow TV]* 36
Moscow Deputy Premier Cited *[INTERFAX]* 37
Journalists' Questions Unanswered *[Moscow Radio]* 37
Government Showed 'Panicky Fear' *[PRAVDA 25 Feb]* 38
Intent 'To Heat Up Passions' *[Radio Rossii]* 39
Poltoranin on Grant Selection for Publications *[Moscow TV]* 40
Editors, Parliament To Hold Joint Meeting *[Russian TV]* 40
Foreign Ministry Launches 'Revamped' Magazine *[Russian TV]* 40

Newsprint Donated to KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 22 Feb]* . 40
State Budget Law for First Quarter Reported *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 25 Feb]* 41

Supreme Soviet

Resolution on Using Russia, Russian Federation *[TASS]* 44
Government, Local Soviet Representatives Meet *[Russian TV]* 44
Dispute Over Mineral Resources Law Examined *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 19 Feb]* 45
Parliament Seeks Control of Intelligence Organs *[IZVESTIYA 24 Feb]* 46
Commission Reports on Gold, Diamond Enterprises *[INTERFAX]* 47
Commission Discusses State Structure Issues *[Moscow Radio]* 47

Regional Affairs

Dudayev, Gamsakhurdia 'Comrades in Misfortune' *[PRAVDA 24 Feb]* 48
Dudayev Says Special Forces Aggravate Situation *[INTERFAX]* 48
Self-Defense Staff Established *[TASS]* 48
Bashkir Supreme Soviet Sends Telegram to Yeltsin *[Moscow Radio]* 48
Moscow Poll Shows Increase in Public Optimism *[KURANTY 25 Feb]* 48
Conversion Problems at Saratov Aircraft Plant *[Moscow TV]* 49
Tatar President on Referendum on Sovereignty *[INTERFAX]* 50
Tyumen Oil, Gas Industry Prospects Eyed *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 15 Feb]* 50
New Mordovan Newspaper Published in Saransk *[Radio Rossii]* 51

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Kravchuk on Disputes With Russia, CIS Armies *[Helsinki Radio]* 52
Kravchuk Briefs Mitterrand on CIS Talks *[TASS]* 52
President Discusses Debt With German Official *[Moscow Radio]* 52
NATO's Manfred Woerner Meets With Leaders *[IZVESTIYA 25 Feb]* 52
EC Delegation Studies Need for Western Aid *[TASS]* 53
Officials Discuss Russia *[INTERFAX]* 53
Fokin on Russian Rights to USSR Property *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 24 Feb]* 53

National Affairs

'Information Blockade' of Moscow Radio Programs *[Moscow International]* 54
New TV Program To Cover Government Activity *[URYADOVYY KURYER Feb]* 54
Official Discusses Fuel Supply Problems *[URYADOVYY KURYER Feb]* 54
Difficulties Reported at Largest Shipyard *[Moscow Radio]* 55

WESTERN REGION

Moldova

New Trade Agreement Signed With Romania *[TASS]* 56
Snegur Discusses Army, Currency, Unification *[Bucharest ADEVARUL 19 Feb]* 56
Presidential Decree Issued on Cabinet Reshuffle *[Bucharest ROMPRES]* 57
Defense Ministry Appeals to Officers, Soldiers *[Bucharest ROMPRES]* 57
Military Officers To Decide Where To Serve *[TASS]* 57

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

State's Possession of Nuclear Weapons Viewed *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 26 Feb]* 58
IMF Experts Visit; Membership Possible *[Alma-Ata Radio]* 59
Officials Have 'Differences' in PRC Talks *[TASS]* 59

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Supreme Soviet Meets on Nagorno-Karabakh *[TASS]* 60
Territorial Claims Denied *[TASS]* 60
President Delays Trip *[INTERFAX]* 60
Azerbaijan Accused of Arms Seizure in Agdam *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 26 Feb]* 60
President Defuses Tension at 21 Feb Rally *[PRAVDA 25 Feb]* 61
Kuwaiti Finance Minister Arrives for Talks *[TASS]* 61
Diplomatic Relations Established With France *[TASS]* 61
Nuclear Power Station Given 33 Million Rubles *[POSTFACTUM]* 61
Vneshekonombank of Armenia To Become Commercial *[INTERFAX]* 62
Poll Shows Majority Supports President *[POSTFACTUM]* 62
Subsistence Level Lower Than European Standard *[Moscow Radio]* 62

Azerbaijan

Iran Mediates Cease-Fire in Nagorno-Karabakh *[TASS]* 62
Further on Cease-Fire *[Tehran Radio]* 63
'Iranian Mercenaries' Rumor Denied *[TASS]* 63
Stepanakert Shelled From Shusha 23 Feb *[IZVESTIYA]* 63
CIS Serviceman Killed *[TASS]* 64
Regional Artillery Depot Raided in Agdam *[TASS]* 64
'Terrorism' Charge Rejected *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 26 Feb]* 64
Nagorno-Karabakh Says Azerbaijan Inciting War *[INTERFAX]* 65
Transfer of Army Units to Azerbaijan Delayed *[POSTFACTUM]* 65
Neutrality of CIS Regiment Questioned *[PRAVDA 24 Feb]* 65

Georgia

Sigua Reaffirms Intention To Leave Politics *[KURANTY 25 Feb]* 66
Asks Shevardnadze To Return *[Moscow International]* 67
Pro-Gamsakhurdia Supporters Continue Rallies *[Tbilisi Radio]* 67
Fighting, Supply Problem in South Ossetia *[Moscow Radio]* 67
CIS Soldier Killed *[INTERFAX]* 67
Socioeconomic Situation 'Critical' *[TASS]* 67
Abkhazia To Examine 'Emergency Regime' *[Radio Rossii]* 68
Caucasus Group Offers Troops *[Russian TV]* 68
Shevardnadze Notes West's Investment Interest *[POSTFACTUM]* 68
Document on Terms of Relations With Iran *[SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA 15 Feb]* 68
UN To Establish Regional Rescue Center *[TASS]* 69
Royal Family Member on Monarchy Referendum *[SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA 22 Feb]* 69

BALTIC STATES

Latvia

Jurkans Discusses Relations With Commonwealth *[Prague RESPEKT 17-23 Feb]* 71
Defense Minister Says Militants Buying Tanks *[BALTFAX]* 72
Statement Issued on Recall of Chinese Ambassador *[BALTFAX]* 72
NATO Official Discusses Cooperation *[BALTFAX]* 72

Lithuania

Landsbergis Statement on Army Withdrawal Viewed *[Vilnius International]* 72
Details of Negotiations *[Radio Rossii]* 73
Departure Ceremony Observed *[BALTFAX]* 73
Baltic Border Commander Appeals to Landsbergis *[BALTFAX]* 74
Alleged Belarussian Claims on Territory Denied *[BALTFAX]* 74
Supreme Council Approves 1992 Budget Revenues *[Vilnius International]* 74

Baker Visit, Reduction in Nuclear Arms Viewed

924P0090A Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Feb 92 p 2

[Report by Lena Bereznitskaya: "Arms Reductions Are Not a Numbers Game, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker Believes"]

[Text] James Baker's tour of the Commonwealth of Independent States concluded yesterday. In the morning the U.S. secretary of state had talks with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. Questions of reducing nuclear arsenals were discussed in development of the Russian president's far-reaching proposals. At a joint news conference upon the conclusion of the negotiations Andrey Kozyrev said that a principal achievement of their dealings with Baker had been the agreement to conduct business such as to avoid protracted perennial negotiations, which had previously frequently been reduced to a prolongation of solutions. Contacts at foreign minister level will be used to this end in order that the presidents of Russia and the United States might by the end of this July even have made decisive progress on disarmament issues and have signed definitive documents. Problems of elimination and shipment and the possibility of the use of the material remaining after elimination were discussed at the negotiations. The American side made several specific proposals on this subject. There will be further study with the participation of the international technology center for supporting nuclear scientists of the former USSR, a decision on its creation was adopted on 17 February, in a trilateral statement by the United States, Germany, and Russia. Andrey Kozyrev observed that he was struck by the proximity of the quantitative indicators which the parties intended to reach in a reduction in nuclear arms. It is at the present time a question of 2,500.

"The question of an arms reduction cannot be a numbers game," James Baker said. "We are looking at a sharp reduction in nuclear arms, and the level of those remaining will be considerably lower than envisaged by the START Treaty."

As far as Boris Yeltsin's statement on a retargeting of Russian nuclear missiles, which caused a stir, is concerned, James Baker "understands the importance of this political statement and supports the spirit behind it." But on a practical level this presents big problems such as, for example, monitoring of the retargeting.

Both Baker and Kozyrev gave a reminder on several occasions that at the latest negotiations it was questions more of a technical nature, not political, which were discussed. Both realize that agreement will not be reached immediately and that friendly relations do not mean oversimplification, but, in any event, deep cuts in nuclear arms will be made. They will have a further opportunity to work on this at a meeting in the first half of March.

Two hours prior to his departure from Moscow the U.S. secretary of state met in the Olimpik-Penta Hotel with Tengiz Sigua, prime minister of the Provisional Government of Georgia. "Georgia is the sole country of the former USSR that we have yet to visit. We have not even been able to secure flights there with our humanitarian assistance on account of the disputes which have been going on there. It is very important that the people of Georgia, whose independence we have recognized, not feel hurt" was how James Baker explained the purpose of his meeting with Sigua.

Weapons Transfer From Belarus, Ukraine Denied

OW2502204092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1900 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander-in-chief of the CIS Armed Forces, denied rumors that nuclear weapons had been moved from Belarus and Ukraine to the village of Bershet, Perm region. According to the Perm-based newspaper (ZVEZDA), the marshal had said that to Russian parliamentarian from Perm Valeriy Fedorov.

Shaposhnikov invited the Perm parliamentarian to meet with Defense Ministry officials. Upon a study of the documents provided by the Defense Ministry, Fedorov confirmed that nuclear warheads had not been moved from any CIS states to West Urals.

General Questions Yeltsin's Arms Initiatives

924P0085A Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Feb 92 p 4

[Article by retired Lieutenant General Vladimir Belous, candidate of technical sciences, Russian-American University: "The Politics and Economics of Disarmament: How Much Does a Seat Under the Nuclear Umbrella Cost?"]

[Text] **Boris Yeltsin's statement "On the Policy of Russia in the Field of Arms Limitations and Reductions" was met without particular enthusiasm by specialists. As NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA surmised, the initiatives of the president, alas, were not prepared in the proper way. Today retired Lieutenant General Vladimir Belous, candidate of technical sciences, sets forth his opinion. The editorial office, however, is not ending the polemics with this.**

Expert Examination

As a rule, the conclusion of agreements or the advancement of initiatives in the area of arms reduction pursue three main groups of objectives—political, military, and economic. In examining the content of a statement from these positions, it should be immediately recognized that the greatest direct positive results should be expected specifically in the political sphere.

In his statement and speech to the United Nations Security Council, B.N. Yeltsin asserted that Russia is the legal successor of the USSR, that it rightfully occupies a seat at this international organization, and that it will adhere strictly to the fulfillment of the obligations it has assumed, particularly in the sphere of disarmament. He succeeded, at least for the present, in calming the populations of Western countries, which are troubled by the breakup of a nuclear superpower.

The clear and consistent position of Russia made a deep impression on world opinion. The international rating of the Russian president undoubtedly rose.

However, it remains an indisputable fact that a determination of the optimal speed of political and military settlements, which are closely related to each other, is a very important task for important state figures and their advisers. The political detente undertaken in the 1970's was not reinforced consistently enough by military detente, and this, in the final analysis, led to its attenuation.

Strategic stability denotes the kind of correlation of forces where neither of the sides can achieve victory under conditions that are most favorable to it. President Kennedy said about this: "We do not need a victory with radioactive dust in the mouth!" Inasmuch as the results of the exchange of the first nuclear strikes are a decisive factor, the level of strategic stability can be increased by improving strategic nuclear forces in two directions: by lowering the counterforce capabilities of strategic offensive arms [SOA] (a reduction in the effectiveness of a preemptive strike on the enemy's SOA) and by increasing the survivability (invulnerability) of SOA systems for delivering a retaliatory strike of "unacceptable" damage.

A sharp reduction in the number of SOA's and the number of warheads on them (up to 2,000-2,500), with the primary removal from arms of multicharge ground-launched and sea-launched missiles, will significantly reduce the offensive and counterforce capabilities of both countries. This will undoubtedly have a positive effect on the level of strategic stability, and will reduce the incentives for delivering a surprise first nuclear strike.

As for the invulnerability of SOA systems, mobile ground-launched and sea-launched systems possess the greatest survivability in the event of war. This is convincingly demonstrated by the results of the Persian Gulf War. Despite the large number of U.S. air sorties (about 6,000), U.S. aircraft still did not succeed in destroying a significant part of Iraqi mobile SCUD missiles. The United States traditionally attaches great significance to missiles on nuclear- powered submarines, on which 50 percent of their strategic warheads are placed. In addition, about a half of the missile-carrying submarines are on permanent operational readiness in the depths of the world ocean.

In the Armed Forces of the former USSR, by virtue of geographic and economic conditions, about 30 percent of the strategic nuclear warheads fall to SLBM's. However, the superiority of the United States in invulnerable SOA systems is compensated by the mobile rail-launched (SS-24) and ground-launched (SS-25) missiles. This asymmetry is a constant source of difficulties in determining the correlation of forces by experts in negotiations. The fact that no kinds of obligations are being undertaken with respect to the "fixed emplacement" of mobile ICBM's, other than those previously approved with respect to SS-24 missiles, is very positive in the statement. At the same time there is some doubt regarding the advisability of the proposal concerning the halving (and even more) of ballistic missile nuclear submarines that are on combat patrol. While at bases, they lose all their advantages and are transformed into a nice target for the delivery of strikes against them. When you consider that ICBM silos are placed at such a distance from each other that during a nuclear delivery strike, a strike on one of them will not knock out an adjacent one, then in the event of "fixed emplacement" of submarines, one enemy warhead could destroy 16-20 SLBM's (160-200 warheads). This figure could be even higher if several submarines are deployed at a base at the same time.

There is one more aspect of the initiative with respect to the reduction of strategic warheads to a level of 2,000-2,500 units. The hope was expressed in the statement that other nuclear countries would join the disarmament process. It turned out that this did not happen. The supreme leaders of Great Britain and France, while welcoming the disarmament initiatives of the United States and Russia, deem it inadvisable for themselves to examine the question of reducing their own nuclear weapons. They can join the disarmament process at the point when the nuclear arsenals of Russia and the United States are reduced to a level comparable to their own. Moreover, neither England nor France made an announcement on the cessation of their own nuclear rearmament programs. In addition, no one has any doubt that the strategic missiles of these countries are certainly not aimed at Washington and San Francisco. The same status will be established in the event that Russia and the United States have 5,000 warheads each. Then, the 1,000 warheads of England and France will create a preponderance of the West over Russia in strategic nuclear weapons in a ratio of 1.2:1.0. Given a reduction of the strategic arsenals of Russia and the United States to a level of 2,000 nuclear charges, the superiority of the West in SOA's will be 1.5:1.0.

Some observers have already turned their attention to the contradictions contained in the proposals of the president of Russia in regard to ABM defense. On the one hand there is a corroboration of compliance with the 1972 Treaty on the Limitation of ABM Systems, which is an "important factor in the support of strategic stability in the world." On the other hand, there is a declaration of readiness for no less than an immediate "development

and also subsequent creation of a jointly operated global system of defense in place of SDI [Strategic Defense Initiative]." The second proposal completely devalues the first, and, in the event of its adoption, the treaty will depart this life. It will give an OK to the expansion of the arms race to outer space—the only natural sphere free of weapons. We are expressing a readiness to take a fatal step—to cross the threshold of outer space with weapons. Having made the first spurt into outer space with weapons, humanity will in the foreseeable future hardly be able to use it exclusively for peaceful purposes. Who will guarantee that immediately after the crown of American military technology—"Brilliant Pebbles"—laser, particle beam, and nuclear weapons will not appear in outer space? It is not accidental that an extensive discussion unfolded on the pages of ZA RUBEZHOM around the proposal of N. Moyseyev concerning the creation of a global antimissile defense system on the basis of "Brilliant Pebbles" technology under the aegis of the United Nations. Almost all the Soviet participants in the discussion, including the author of these lines, have a completely negative attitude toward this idea. But considering that "there are no prophets in one's own land," we will turn to the opinion of respected foreign military-political analysts. We will cite the opinion of former U.S. Secretary of Defense R. McNamara, leading specialists in the field of military technology, professors H. Bethe, R. Garwin, H. York, and some others. They are all convinced that a global system of defense against a missile attack will be ineffective. The conclusion of these scientists is identical: "Despite the enthusiasm of some persons in the military-industrial complex of the United States (and in the former USSR) with respect to the technology and deployment of an ABM system, we believe that this would do damage to our security." Thus, was it necessary to "leap before looking" with regard to our readiness, not to study, but immediately "to develop and create" such an ABM defense?

It is possible to agree with the proposal on the creation of a space-based global information reconnaissance system under the aegis of the United Nations. In a short time, the combined national technical monitoring systems of the USSR and the United States could become its technical base. Later on, observation systems of other countries could be "built into" it, and, in the end, it will be transformed into a general planetary system of collection and processing of information that will be accessible to all members of the world community. This kind of openness will serve as a serious stabilizing factor, and will restrain a potential aggressor from hostile actions.

We will dwell on certain economic aspects of the statement. At one time, after the announcement by the Pentagon of Reagan's SDI program, its critics both in the United States and the Soviet Union justifiably pointed to its fabulous cost. A global ABM system that must cover not only the territory of the United States (like SDI), but also more than half a hundred of the most developed states of the world, will require greater expenditures. Consequently, while closing down the arms race in some directions we are ready to invest billions on its development in other directions. Under conditions of a profound economic crisis, it is hardly worth talking about whether such proposals, moreover, very questionable in their consequences, look realistic.

The significant reduction in the periods for the destruction of weapons causes concern. It is no secret that hundreds of military ships are rusting in harbors, and that there are tens of thousands of tanks, armored combat vehicles, and artillery pieces, which we cannot utilize wisely, in Trans-Ural forests.

It is now proposed to cut the period for the destruction of SOA systems from seven to three years (more than in half). It is impossible not to recall here the barbaric method in which intermediate and shorter range missiles were destroyed. As a result of their destruction, thousands of tons of toxic products were hurled into the atmosphere from the explosion of solid missile propellants.

At the present time there are no generally accepted economical and ecologically clean methods that have undergone independent expert analysis for the destruction of solid fuel missiles, certain components of liquid fuel missiles (for example, heptyl), and the removal and burial of nuclear reactors and radioactive wastes from the hulls of submarines. Professor V. Mikhaylov, manager of the military nuclear program of the former USSR, admitted that the destruction of nuclear weapons removed from arms will require appropriations on a scale of 1.5-2 million rubles (in 1991 prices), and that it will take no less than 10 years. Until now the scale of costs resulting from the destruction of intermediate and shorter range missiles has not been published.

The impression is created that the preparation of the Russian initiatives was conducted in a short period by representatives of some academic institutes that are free of responsibility for the condition of defense capabilities and the economy of the country, and for whom the main objective was the creation of a dumbfounding political effect.

Company Undertakes 'Dangerous Waste' Destruction

PM2402153492 Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 14 Feb 92 p A5

[Report by Lars-Ingmar Karlsson: "'Blow Up Nuclear Waste'"]

[Text] A newly formed Russian company undertakes to destroy dangerous waste from both Europe and the United States with the help of civilian nuclear charges. Even nuclear reactors that have served their time at research laboratories can be rendered harmless. The price is low and the technology environmentally friendly, the company claims.

The company is called Chetek. It was formed a little over a year ago with the support of the then Soviet Ministry of Nuclear Energy and Industry (Mapi).

The company has no technical experts of its own, but has access to such experts from Arzamas 16. This is a research institute at which the majority of the former Soviet Union's nuclear arms were constructed. The company is also able to make use of the Novaya Zemlya testing station for its experiments and also undertakes to carry out the actual destruction of waste there.

According to the publication, NUCLEONICS WEEK, the company was set up by 10 researchers from Arzamas 16. The idea behind the company is purely commercial; it is a result of the new openness in Russia.

"We need money to develop techniques for the civilian use of nuclear charges. Some of the money comes from Chetek and some from Mapi," Sergey Yermakov, who is the spokesman of the Russian nuclear ministry, told DAGENS NYHETER's Moscow correspondent.

"We do not release any information about our expertise to unauthorized individuals, nor do we make any concessions when it comes to the scientific safety of our work," he said.

Sergey Yermakov was unwilling to say anything more.

However, the company has not acted at all secretly when it attempted to sell its knowledge. It has, for example, visited scientific conferences in both Europe and Canada, sometimes in the company of Viktor Mikhaylov, deputy minister for nuclear energy and industry, who was interviewed in yesterday's DAGENS NYHETER. In that interview Mikhaylov was very worried about how Russia and other former Soviet republics would deal with the problems left by past nuclear test detonations.

Lars-Erik De Geer of the Defense Research Institute is one of the people who have listened to Chetek representatives. As well as accepting environmentally dangerous waste and obsolete nuclear reactors, the company also promises to take care of chemical weapons and spent nuclear fuel.

"In purely technical terms the company has found a niche for itself, but doing what Chetek is thinking of doing is unacceptable.

"When the company says that they can also take care of spent nuclear fuel, I think that they really are going far too far. You lose all control over what you are doing," he said, pointing to the stringent safety regulations which normally apply to the storing of spent nuclear fuel.

In their marketing the company says that it is possible to mix everything from environmentally dangerous waste to nuclear waste and then blow up everything with a sufficiently large nuclear charge, for example, in a 1000-meter-deep hole in Novaya Zemlya.

At a conference in Canada Aleksandr Chernychev from Arzamas 16 declared that a single 150-kilotonne charge could destroy 20,000 tonnes of chemical weapons.

It is unclear whether Chetek has succeeded in selling its expertise. Observers do not think this is possible given the demands made on nuclear technology in the West. A frequent comment is that the Russians must be very ignorant of the view taken outside the Soviet Union of the danger of nuclear blasts.

But Chetek itself claims that it has future clients in several chemical companies in Scandinavia, Germany, and the United States. According to the company's price list, it will cost between 1,500 and 6,500 kronor per kilo of waste, depending on the composition of the waste.

According to the company's own timetable, the first experiments with the destruction of waste are to begin this summer. However, since last fall a voluntary one-year ban on nuclear explosions is in force in the CIS. This could be extended, but Chetek claims that it will not be covered by an extension.

Poll on Concentrating Nuclear Arms in Russia

924P0090B Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Feb 92 p 2

[INTERFAX report: "Will Nuclear Weapons Make Russia a Great Power?"]

[Text] How do you view the proposal for the concentration of all nuclear weapons of the former USSR in Russia? The All-Union Center for the Study of Public Opinion put this question to participants in a January poll. Some 1,597 persons were polled in Russia, 517 in Ukraine, and 240 in Kazakhstan, the "DATA" Agency reports.

Russian respondents showed the greatest enthusiasm for this proposal: 43 percent believe that this corresponds most to the interests of security.

Half as many respondents were of this opinion in Kazakhstan—21 percent—and 19 percent in Ukraine.

Some 39 percent of those polled in Ukraine, 30 percent in Kazakhstan, and 4 percent in Russia are opposed to the concentration of all nuclear weapons on the territory of Russia. In their opinion, this would afford Russia advantages over the other states of the Commonwealth.

About 15 percent of the participants in the poll in Russia, 8 percent in Ukraine, and 6 percent in Kazakhstan declared that such actions would do great harm to Russian security.

Poll Views Possibility of Nuclear Weapons' Use

924P0086A Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Feb 92 p 2

[INTERFAX report: "What Might a Cause of War Be?"]

[Text] In a January poll of the All-Union Center for the Study of Public Opinion 29 percent of the participants in Ukraine believe that a lack of order and discipline in the Army and the accidental use of the weapons could now be a cause of using nuclear weapons. Some 24 percent of Russian respondents and 21 percent of Kazakhs are of the same opinion.

Some 1,597 persons were polled in Russia, 517 in Ukraine, and 240 in Kazakhstan, the "DATA" Agency reports.

"Owing to a lack of proper control of the storage of the weapons and the possibility of their falling into the hands of terrorist groupings" was how 28 percent in Russia, 23 percent in Ukraine, and 22 percent in Kazakhstan defined a possible cause.

Some 9 percent of Russians, 8 percent of Ukrainian respondents, and 7 percent of Kazakhs believe that a nuclear conflict could be a consequence of a decision of the leadership of this republic or the other to use nuclear weapons in an interrepublic conflict.

One out of every five Kazakh respondents believes that an attack by an external enemy could cause war, while 7 percent of Russians and 5 percent of Ukrainians are of this opinion.

The remainder could not say.

NATO's Woerner on Areas of CIS Cooperation

LD2502203892 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1620 GMT 25 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—Before arriving in Moscow, Manfred Woerner visited Kiev. In this connection an ITAR-TASS correspondent questioned him about possible deviations in Russia's and Ukraine's approaches to resolving security problems. The NATO secretary general stated that: "There are agreements and deviations in the two countries' positions." "Our alliance is interested in good relations within the framework of the CIS, in stability and cooperation between CIS states," he said. In Manfred Woerner's words: "There is a good chance that Kiev and Moscow are aware of their problems and will establish good relations."

Talking about areas in which cooperation is planned between NATO and Commonwealth countries, the NATO leader named security problems, defense planning, military training, conversion, military-economic questions, and science. In his words, already approximately 150 Russian scientists are taking part in seminars conducted by NATO.

Answering a question about whether the North Atlantic Alliance can take part in settling the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, Manfred Woerner stressed that NATO can only advise. The CSCE process, in his view, may turn out to be the most useful forum to resolve this conflict.

He rejected the possibility of the dissolution of NATO in response to the disappearance of the Warsaw Treaty from the political landscape. In his words, NATO is the only organization existing of a defensive nature that promotes stability.

On the subject of the problems of defense conversion, Manfred Woerner noted that countries with market economies are also facing these problems, however, they are felt more sharply in CIS countries. The NATO secretary general thinks the best way to solve them in the Commonwealth countries is through the creation of joint enterprises. He supported the idea of creating, within the framework of the United Nations, a special register for the arms trade. Such a register, Manfred Woerner believes, will make it possible not only to register deliveries but also to reduce weapons exports.

Setting out his point of view on the possibility of preserving unified CIS Armed Forces and the formation of national armies, the secretary general stated: "It is not NATO's business to appraise the organization of armed forces." The alliance, in his words, will accept the decision that is worked out by the Commonwealth countries. At the same time Manfred Woerner stressed that the North Atlantic Alliance will not consider the national armies as adversaries, since this is a matter of sovereign states.

After the news conference, Manfred Woerner met ambassadors of NATO countries accredited to Moscow.

He left Russia's capital today.

Republic Presidents To Sign CSCE Final Act

LD2502222392 Moscow TASS in English 2159 GMT 25 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Dodonov]

[Text] Helsinki February 26 TASS—President of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov, and President of Tajikistan, Rakhman Nabiyev, arrived in Helsinki on Tuesday [25 February] at the invitation of the Government of Finland. Together with other heads of state of the Commonwealth they will take part in a ceremony of signing the final act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), which will symbolize the entry of these states into the organisation as full-fledged members.

In accordance with the programme of the visit Islam Karimov and Rakhmon Nabiyev will meet with President Mauno Koivisto, visit the Finnish parliament and participate in a joint news conference of heads of state who arrived at the ceremony of signing the document.

The main purpose of our visit here is to lay the foundation for an active participation of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan in the work of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Karimov said upon his arrival in Helsinki. All the ten principles of the interstate communication, set forth in the final act of the CSCE, as well as clauses of the Paris Charter for New Europe signed later, bear direct relationship to security not only in Europe but in the whole world. From this viewpoint our wish to support these principles is quite natural, as only they will make it possible to secure world peace and cooperation, which is now a necessary precondition for the entry of our countries into the world economy and creation of a new society in Europe, Karimov stressed.

The Tajik president noted that his country has won its independence quite recently and is just embarking upon the way of creating a new democratic society and a market economy. Therefore, he pointed out, we would like to carefully study the experience of other states, including Finland, so that our first steps in this direction were confident.

Moldova's Snegur Comments

LD2502151692 Moscow TASS in English 1449 GMT 25 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Dodonov]

[Text] Helsinki February 25 TASS—Moldovan President Mircea Snegur arrived here today at the invitation of the Finnish Government. Together with the heads of several other Commonwealth member states, he will sign

the final act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. The signatory ceremony, which is scheduled to take place in Finlandia Palace on Wednesday [26 February], will symbolize the joining by Commonwealth states of the CSCE process.

Under the programme of the visit, Snegur is expected to meet Finnish President Mauno Koivisto, visit the Finnish parliament and take part in the joint news conference of the heads of state who arrived in Helsinki to sign the final act.

"We attach immense importance to the signing of the final act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which pays so much attention to the protection of human rights and the rights of national minorities," Snegur said upon his arrival in Helsinki.

At a brief news conference at the airport, he emphasised the Moldovan people sought to establish a democratic state that would honour the principles of international law. "We fully recognise also the CSCE process," Snegur said.

Responding to journalists' querries, he said Moldova wanted to become a peaceful demilitarised state. "In this regard, we do not want to participate in the Commonwealth joint Armed Forces, but will form our own small professional army which is needed mostly to train young people," Snegur said.

"Talks to create such an army are in progress with the command of the Commonwealth Armed Forces and we hope that we will be able to define troop units on Moldovan territory, which will become the backbone of our army by late February or early March," he said.

Snegur favoured maintaining very close and fraternal relations between Moldova and Romania, but noted, however, that these countries should live and develop separately. "This is the will of the Moldovan people, which I fully share," Snegur stressed.

CSCE Commission Ends Nagorno-Karabakh Visit

PM2502120792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 7

[Reoort by L. Kornilov under the "IZVESTIYA Teletype Room" rubric: "No Request To Send UN Troops"]

[Text] The CSCE Commission on Nagorno-Karabakh headed by Count K. Schwarzenberg, chief of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic president's office, has returned to Prague. The purpose of the trip was to gather information, and so talks were not held with either side about specific steps. Nor did either side ask for UN subunits to be sent to Nagorno-Karabakh. Answering journalists' questions, Count Schwarzenberg emphasized that all the CIS states neighboring Armenia and Azerbaijan are interested in the speediest elimination of the conflict.

Vilnius Seminar Focuses on East Europe Security

LD2502135692 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1300 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Text] A three-day international seminar opened today in Vilnius to discuss security, stability, and confidence in Eastern Europe. In addition to representatives from Lithuania, this forum is being participated in by guests from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, and Poland. A delegation of NATO representatives is led by General Sir Brian Kenny, deputy commnader of the NATO Armed Forces.

In the morning the participants were welcomed by Saulius Peceliunas, chairman of the National Defense Committee of the Supreme Council. The plenary meetings of the seminar are being chaired by Lithuanian National Defense Minister Audrius Butkevicius. Our correspondent interviews him.

[Begin recording] [Butkevicius] I must say, first of all, that this conference is not an official meeting of the delegations. It is a gathering of people who are engaged in the problems of security. They have been doing this for a long time so they can voice their views on the problems. As security concerns all of us—and as no single state can guarantee security with only its own means—we hope that the thoughts that will be voiced here will give rise to new ideas and that new meetings will serve the consolidation of our common security in this rather unstable region.

[Unidentified reporter] This meeting is attended by representatives from Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Minsk, and Moscow. What are the contacts with them, especially with Moscow?

[Butkevicius] The contacts are perfect. These are not new contacts. We have always invited to our meetings colleagues from Belarus, Ukraine, and Moscow. We think that it cannot be otherwise, as we need true views from all the participants in the problems of security, not just of a seperate group. We do not seek any implementation of political agreements or make decisions. We try to understand.

[Reporter] I am thinking about the withdrawal of troops from Lithuania. Here are the military reprresentatives of the former Soviet Union, yet the progress is very slow, is it not?

[Butkevicius] The progress depends on international agreements between Lithuania and Russia. It is very important the the first steps have been taken. There have been meetings of the delagations and a meeting of the groups of experts. Although there are unsolved technical problems, I am happy to say that there are no political problems.

[Reporter] Ukrainian People's Deputy (Vasil Chervonyy), you are also a member of the commission for the affairs of defense and state security of the Supreme

Soviet of Ukraine. Many people consider your republic to be very [word indistinct].

[(Chervonyy)] I think this is because the Moscow mass media are presenting the image of Ukraine as an enemy. This is natural because during a period of economic difficulties the Russian leadership would like to divert the attention of people from its own problems and switch their energy toward that of an enemy. In this case the Russian leadership did not find any better way out than to present the image of Ukraine as an enemy.

[Reporter] What do you expect from this meeting and your participation?

[(Chervonyy)] Representatives of Eastern Europe are gathered here, mainly former USSR republics. We will work out a new policy of new thinking about how, in the present situation, to apply joint efforts so as to take this part of Europe to a new level of cooperation and security. Ukraine must have its say. We are a sufficiently large country and are able to influence the process of stabilization in this part of Europe. At the same time, we can help the Baltic countries, including Lithuania. In my report I will dwell on the concept of our military construction in Ukraine and on our views on the process of security and cooperation in Europe. [end recording]

Submarine Involved in Clash Returns to Norfolk

LD2602110292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 25 Feb 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The U.S. submarine Baton Rouge is today being welcomed at the Naval base at Norfolk, Virginia, United States of America. In the opinion of our experts it is not likely to put to sea again in the near future.

Pieces of the U.S. submarine's plating remained in the Barents Sea, far away from Norfolk, after its collision with a Russian submarine. As representatives of the Northern Fleet put it, parts labelled "Made in the USA" were found on the hull of our submarine. Indeed, it as exactly this which forced the Americans to admit that they had been involved in the incident.

Taking advantage of the fact that they had managed to get the military to talk, journalists tried to find out details of the Baton Rouge's mission. Reports appeared that, possibly, the submarine was engaged in listening to conversations between Russian military bases. Radio France Internationale did not rule out the suggestion that the United States was checking how much of what was forbidden to everyone in the past was now permissible for the Americans.

Well, if this was a check then it turned out badly and the complicated maneuvers by the two submarines trying to outwit each other ended in a collision. Our submariners came out of it better. Experts think that this was because the Russian submarine was made of titanium while the U.S. submarine was made of steel and other components.

However, it seems that this entire event has not dismayed the U.S. military. They say that they will continue to send forces wherever they think necessary, including those regions of the world where, possibly, the appearance of U.S. vessels is not expected.

By the way, our officials say just about the same thing. So relations between states may get better or worse but the military departments will always study each other. They are there to stop life getting too easy for their partners. In general, one can only guess how many other nuclear submarines there are and where they are playing their games of hide and seek.

Vietnam MIA's Transported via PRC 'Windows'

MK2502110092 Moscow KOMMERSANT in Russian No. 18, 17-24 Feb 92 p 27

[By Yuriy Pankov: "United States Hunting for Them. Senators Gone, Prisoners Remain"]

[Text] Colonel General Dmitriy Volkogonov gave U.S. senators documents 17 February confirming that during the years after the Great Patriotic War the NKVD [People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs] held Americans in the USSR as prisoners of the Red Army. However, after the delegation left, evidence was found that U.S. prisoners were also brought into the USSR during the sixties.

During a conversation with KURANTY's correspondent, sources close to the U.S. White House attributed the visit to Moscow by members of the Senate Commission for Prisoners of War and MIA's to the U.S. Administration's desire to "close the matter" and not spoil its relations with Russia. Evidently, Moscow wanted the same thing. Eminent Russian officials—Rutskoy, Primakov, and Volkogonov—sought traces of the U.S. soldiers 13 through 17 February in conjunction with the senators, but found no MIA's.

However, Senator Bob Smith told KURANTY's correspondent that on the last day of the visit "it proved possible to get important documents" from Volkogonov. "We cannot for the moment say which documents precisely." According to KURANTY's information, the reference was to a list bearing the names of 14 American supporters of Hitler who died in NKVD hands. There was also information about four U.S. deserters. During the Vietnam war they jumped the aircraft carrier Enterprise when it was moored in Japan. They were later spotted in Moscow occupied in pacifist activity through the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries. But the United States never considered these deserters to be MIA's.

However, KURANTY's correspondent received information from an air defense major who wishes to remain

anonymous regarding a KGB operation to bring into the USSR a pilot brought down in Vietnam. According to the major, in 1967 "windows" were organized on the Sino-Soviet border for special automobiles to pass through avoiding the checkpoints. In September 1967 a U.S. pilot called "Parkinson or maybe even Patterson," who had been shot down in Vietnam, was brought in through one of these "windows." He was first taken to the Kazakh village of Sary-Shagan (see KURANTY No. 42 for 1991 for this story) in order to induce him to cooperate, and then to the nearby air defense center—in Priozersk. It is not known what happened to this man after that. The name James Kelly Patterson is listed in Pentagon MIA files.

CIA Declassification, 'Openness' Noted

924C0702A Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 21 Feb 92 p 2

[ITAR-TASS report:"The CIA Knows How To Keep Secrets"]

[Text] As the "cold war" becomes increasingly a thing of the past, the contingent of "ideologically firm cloak-and-dagger knights" of the CIA is being joined more actively by a detachment of narrow profile specialists—economists, lawyers, linguists, and businessmen. Work is under way also on the creation of a more attractive image for the agency.

There has been no diminution in the CIA's cares and concerns with the change in the international atmosphere. In response to the demands which are heard from time to time for the breakup of the CIA and the reallocation of its $30 billion budget, the leaders of this department and financial experts are pointing to the vital need for an expansion of economic espionage.

The "Openness" group, which is made up of seven staffers of different departments of the agency, was formed not that long since on the instructions of new CIA Director Robert Gates. The group's principal purpose, according to THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, is "deciding whether the classified stamp should be removed from several million documents accumulated by the CIA in its 45-year history." True, it is a question of papers which are 30-40 years old pertaining, specifically, to the CIA's involvement in the overthrow of the governments of Iran in 1953 and Guatemala in 1954 and also to the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba.

It is unclear as yet, the newspaper observes, whether the campaign for openness will really change the CIA. The sole specific proposal in this sphere made by Gates—for the publication of data on the United States' total spending on intelligence—was turned down by President Bush. "In any event, the public should not expect that the CIA will start to sell tickets for tours of its headquarters in Langley (Virginia) and compete in openness with its long-standing adversary, the KGB, which is selling and distributing its secrets at extraordinary speed," THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER concludes.

Azerbaijani, Armenian Views on Baker Visit

92US0254A Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian No 8, 19 Feb p 2

[Reports by LITERATURNAYA GAZETA correspondent Elmira Akhundova: "Secretaries of State Come and Go" and journalist Bagrat Zarayan: "But the Conflict Remains"]

[Text]**Baker's Visit From the Azerbaijani Side**

Commentary of Rasim Musabekov, adviser to the president of Azerbaijan:

"Azerbaijan and the whole of the southern arc on the territory of the former USSR are of heightened interest for the United States today. It is intimidated by the possibility of the formation here of the unstable zone of a military-political vacuum, which could be filled by what would be for it a second unacceptable ideology (aside from the communist one), namely, what it calls Islamic fundamentalism. In this sense Azerbaijan is an object of close attention for the American political establishment.

"Baker's visit to Azerbaijan was of a get-acquainted nature, and for this reason the parties managed without discussions, confining themselves to an exposition of their own position on a number of urgent problems. Naturally, there was talk about the protracted conflict surrounding the NKAO [Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast] also. It was observed, for our part, that America frequently had a distorted perception of this conflict and that Azerbaijan had no aggressive aspirations.

"The American delegation did not define its attitude toward the conflict, avoiding all statements in support of this side or the other. The secretary of state emphasized that America was opposed to the use of force in the solution of any political disputes.

"In the course of the meeting the president of the Republic of Azerbaijan informed Baker that the republic was preparing a plan of peace initiatives for a political solution of the conflict in the NKAO. Rumors about Azerbaijan's aspiration to superarms are totally baseless. Speaking about some Azerbaijani Army is meaningless, it does not exist as yet, but, like any independent state, we will have armed forces.

"The main result of J. Baker's visit is, perhaps, the fact that our neighbors' attempts to isolate Azerbaijan from the world's superpower have come to nothing."

What Armenia Thinks About This

Journalist Bagrat Zarayan comments from Yerevan:

Of course, at the center of the negotiations between the president of Armenia and the head of the United States' foreign policy department was the Karabakh conflict. What did they produce? To go by the press, both parties

reaffirmed their adherence to a peaceful solution of the confrontation. Baker refrained as yet from general conclusions. He emphasized that attempts at a settlement were being made within the framework of the CSCE and that observers had already been sent to the region. At its last session in Strasbourg, incidentally, the European Parliament accused the leadership of the Republic of Azerbaijan of "an unprecedented, massed offensive in the region, which is populated mainly by Armenians and which has proclaimed independence from Azerbaijan."

In respect of the neighboring republic America was embarrassed by one circumstance. At the end of last December U.S. Secretary of State Baker had accused Azerbaijan of pursuing an aggressive policy in the region. And yet little more than a month later a high-level White House spokesman announces his government's intention of establishing diplomatic relations with Azerbaijan. What is the explanation for this political flip-flop? Flexibility? A change in the situation in the region? Pressure from Turkey? But America has sufficient principles when it comes to human rights.

We could make many guesses.

Meanwhile the blood of innocent people is being shed in Karabakh. Victory reports supersede lists of martyrs. The reports of Central Television's Channel 1 put together from the Azerbaijani side accuse, as a rule, the Armenian fighters, and vice versa. Such a surrogate for political analysis is merely adding fuel to what is already a raging fire. By the spring thaw the clashes will, it may be assumed, have taken on even greater proportions and acrimony. Will the Armenian population of Nagornyy Karabakh and Shaumyanskiy Rayon defend its freedom?

Russia and the United States now have the final say. The first, it would seem, has begun to recognize the importance of a southern springboard for its security, and America will hardly define its position in the immediate future, since the presidential election is dictating behavior which will bring Bush the votes of Armenian Armenians and Turks.

We will have quite some time to wait, evidently. The number of casualties is growing.

Baker Tour Highlights Central Asia Concerns

PM2502151692 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 22 Feb 92 p 2

[Article by observer Aleksandr Golts under the "Topic of the Week" rubric: "The Peregrinations of the Great Envoy James in the Kingdom of Mysteries"]

[Text] "And I will tell you another thing: From the time when the Lord created Adam to the present day, there has never been any man who learned and knew so much of other countries and great marvels as Mr. Marco has learned and knows." These lines from the first chapter of the "Travels" of Marco Polo could easily be the epigraph to any of numerous articles written by American diplomatic correspondents accompanying U.S. Secretary of State J. Baker on his lengthy travels around the CIS states. Baker's trip prompts associations with Marco Polo's travels not only because the secretary of state saw a great many "marvels": the Yerevan market, the mosques of Samarkand, and also the supposed remnants of the last Russian emperor in Yekaterinburg and the mysterious city of Chelyabinsk-70, where weapons were created whose might no mythical jinni can match.

There is also the fact that at this moment, at the end of the 20th century, several blank spaces have appeared on the political map of the planet in the place of the USSR. States have formed here whose possible policy the world knows little more of than it knows of the policy of the land of Mosol or the island state of Chipingu which Marco Polo wrote about. And J. Baker, like the valiant Venetian, set off for those very countries. And he was motivated not only by curiosity, but also by serious concern.

Thus Washington made no secret of its concern that the states of Central Asia, having lost the Moscow vector, could come under very strong influence from Islamic fundamentalists (Iran began even earlier than the United States to seek intensively to open up this once arid diplomatic space). Therefore at his talks in Ashkhabad, Tashkent, and Dushanbe J. Baker did not put too much emphasis on the well-known principles that Washington once put forward as a condition for recognition of the newborn states (which, however, did not stop the heads of some of those states from clearly repeating these same principles to the guest from across the ocean). Instead, J. Baker pointed persistently to the need for those states to take the worldly West as their example, rather than the theocratic Middle East.

Washington is worried not only by the future "arc of instability" in Central Asia, but just as much by the conflicts that have already flared up on the territory of the former USSR. Therefore the chief of the U.S. foreign policy department came to Moldova, Azerbaijan, and Armenia as a peacemaker. Thus in Chisinau [Kishinev], the U.S. press reports, J. Baker sought assurances that the Russian and Gagauz national minorities will not be oppressed. In Yerevan and Baku Nagorno-Karabakh was the center of attention at the talks. The secretary of state's main thesis, addressed to the leaders of both republics, amounted to the following: "The creation of a new independent state, its inclusion in the community of countries, and the creation of a market economy is an important task in itself, and it should not be burdened down and complicated by the continuing dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh."

I would not like to speculate about whether these words will have an effect, but they were heard attentively and it seems that the secretary of state received all the necessary assurances. Therefore, immediately on Baker's arrival in Washington, an announcement was made on

the recognition of those of the republics he visited which had not already achieved that honor.

I agree with those who found that this part of the secretary of state's visit created a twofold impression. On the one hand, the proclaimed aims of the trip are understandable and can arouse no suspicion. On the other, it is, after all, strange that a guest from across the ocean has taken on the functions of coordinator in the CIS and is calling more energetically than any of its members for the strengthening of stability in our mysterious Commonwealth. But I will not join some of my colleagues in criticizing Russian diplomacy for being far less active than Baker in opening up the land beyond its own "near frontiers."

It is not a question of reluctance to secure Russia's interests in the contiguous CIS states. It is a question of strictly limited opportunities. To paraphrase the well-known French saying, you could say that even the most democratic democrat cannot give more than he has got.

But Mr. Baker can. He represents a mighty state which, if it does not give aid itself, will help ensure that others give it. Lastly, it is Washington that is today opening the way for the republics really to join the world community. And if orientation toward the United States is not objectively going to strengthen the republics' ties with Russia, that is not Mr. Baker's fault.

The clear and laudable pragmatism of U.S. foreign policy was also fully in evidence at the Moscow talks. Having had another dose of mysteries following the Minsk conference, Washington clearly and unequivocally reacted to the specific challenges that, in its opinion, constitute a potential threat to U.S. security. People there are concerned about the possibility that certain regimes may buy up the stray nuclear experts of the former USSR. And the White House is allocating $25 million to set up a joint Russian-American-German research center where those scientists could work.

The United States is also worried that there are a substantial quantity of nuclear weapons across the expanses of the former Union. And the United States does not believe that these weapons are being properly stored. So Baker put forward a whole series of proposals on assistance with the dismantling, transportation, and storage of the nuclear arsenal. The Americans promise, for instance, to supply 25 specially equipped railcars for transporting nuclear warheads to the storage depots.

As for the most important point, namely further talks on strategic arms reduction, which were repeatedly described as the main aim of Baker's trip, he expressed himself far less decisively and with great restraint on the results of these talks. Seemingly the Americans intend to wait and see what happens when the fate of the armed forces is finally decided in the CIS. The fact that they have every reason for this was confirmed by a meeting that foreign journalists have just had with L. Kravchuk in Kiev. Here he spoke out in favor of strategic arms talks with Washington being held with all four "nuclear" republics of the CIS. Until such time as the Commonwealth states reach final decisions on questions that interest the United States, Washington apparently intends to maintain unremitting observation of the "land of mysteries." And not only by diplomatic means. As was attested by the incident of the nuclear submarines in the Barents Sea.

So the peregrinations of the great envoy James across the expanses of the CIS demonstrated once again: The world expects predictable, civilized behavior from all the Commonwealth states. And until they display such behavior, people will continue to regard us with misgivings and even suspicion. And no Baker will help here.

CIS Deputy Commander Arrives in Beijing

LD2602063492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0440 GMT 26 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Sorokin]

[Text] Beijing, 26 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—Colonel General V.N. Samsonov, CIS Unified Armed Forces (UAF) chief of general staff and CIS UAF first deputy commander, began his visit to the PRC today. He arrived in the PRC on the invitation of Colonel General Chi Hoatian, People's Liberation Army (PLA) chief of general staff.

We seek to develop military cooperation between the PRC and the CIS and to strengthen positive moments and good tendencies which exist in mutual relations between the two countries, Col. Gen. V.N. Samsonov told ITAR-TASS at Beijing's Shoudu Airport. We will meet our PRC colleagues and discuss a number of issues, primarily military cooperation and ties between our Armies. An exchange of opinions on joint steps to reduce armed forces near the Chinese- Russian border will take place.

The CIS UAF chief of general staff's visit will contribute greatly toward strengthening ties between the PRC and CIS Armies, Fu Jiaping, director of the PRC Defense Ministry's Foreign Affairs Bureau, said when welcoming the guests.

The CIS UAF chief of general staff and the officials accompanying him were taken from the airport to a military museum, where they were officially welcomed by Col. Gen. Chi Haotian and PRC Armed Forces deputy commanders. The CIS military commander's program will also include, apart from talks with the leadership of the PLA's general staff, meetings with PRC National Defense Minister Col. Gen. Qin Jiwei and Jiang Zemin, chairman of the PRC Central Military Council. Col. Gen. V.N. Samsonov will also speak at the PLA Academy of Military Sciencies and will visit a number of military units and formations in the towns of Shijiazhuang, Guangzhou, and Shanghai.

The CIS UAF chief of general staff will fly from Beijing to Pyongyang on 2 March.

Latin America Willing to Receive Immigrants

PY2502225392 Moscow Radio Moscow in Spanish to Latin America 0000 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] The European Communities Commission [CEC] has acknowledged that the governments of Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Venezuela have expressed their willingness to receive immigrants from the former Soviet republics and from East Europe. According to CEC figures, between 2 and 3 million people from former socialist countries want to begin a new life in Latin America. This is what our commentator Leonid Levchenko wrote about the issue:

In other times, when our brotherly socialist countries were separated from the rest of the world by the iron curtain and the Berlin wall it was not possible to resolve the problem of the free immigration of citizens from these countries to the capitalist world because their exit was not considered emigration. There was a system of provisions banning Soviet citizens from making use of this right as established by the UN Declaration of Human Rights. The Soviet media, however, reported with satisfaction on the brain drain, the exit of qualified workers from developing countries, particularly Latin America, to the United States and other western countries.

Times have changed, however, and the former Socialist countries are currently facing great economic difficulties while trying to transform their economies to a market economy. Unemployment is so high, including highly qualified specialists, that the West is concerned over the threat that a mass of immigrants will invade them.

Such was the alarming news from West Europe that various Latin American republics had the intriguing idea of allowing CIS and East European citizens to immigrate to South America to begin a new life there. The proposal was presented during the conference on aid to the CIS that met not long ago in Washington. Argentina's President Carlos Menem later repeated the offer at a session of the EC. Menem said that Argentina is ready to receive between 100,000 to 300,000 immigrants from the former Soviet Union. Venezuela, Uruguay, Chile, and Paraguay have also expressed their willingness to receive immigrants, although not in the same numbers.

Venezuela has even created a government commission to elaborate a program to select future Soviet Venezuelans. The commission will encourage the immigration of highly qualified experts for employment in industry, agriculture, and construction. Leonid Levchenko said that it seems that this charitable action will cost the EC dearly, however, because Latin American host countries want to charge West European countries for their hospitality.

Latin American countries at first asked $100,000 from West European countries for each family of immigrants that settled in their countries, although they later reduced the figure to $25,000. The EC reaction was cautious. The problem is not the money. The problem is that these resources can be better used in Latin America to solve these countries' domestic problems not to settle immigrants. Leonid Levchenko said that the situation is even more serious because these countries do not know how to solve their own unemployment problems.

Commonwealth

Representatives Discuss Debt Obligations in Kiev

15 Delegations To Attend

LD2502192692 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 25 Feb 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The same economic problems, but now within the framework of the whole Commonwealth, particularly in relations with foreign partners, were discussed by representatives of the Commonwealth republics in Kiev.

[Correspondent V. Lyaskalo] Government delegations from the states which were subjects of the former USSR met in Kiev today for a consultative conference, to discuss creating the conditions necessary for the prompt fulfillment of the old Union's contractual obligations. Places had been prepared in the conference room for all 15 delegations, but as the meeting opened it became known that the flight from Georgia was late, and the Russian delegation's seats were also empty.

Vitold Fokin, the prime minister of Ukraine, proposed a seven point agenda, which includes the issue of legal succession in respect of the USSR's foreign state debt and assets and the subject of the mechanism for paying off and servicing the USSR's debt commitments in foreign currency. The participants in the conference also intend to clarify and agree on a mechanism for monitoring implementation of the trade and economic agreement signed in Minsk on 14 February.

Agenda Outlined

LD2502212392 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1748 GMT 25 Feb 92

[From the "Domestic Market" section]

[Text] Kiev—A consultative meeting began in Kiev on February 25, on conditions for the timely fulfillment of the debt obligations by the former USSR. The Russian Federation is not involved in the meeting. The consultative council is to take up the following issues:

1. On the legal successor of the USSR regarding its foreign debt and assets.
2. On the mechanism of debt-service of the USSR in foreign currency.
3. Issues related to the circulation of securities of the former USSR.
4. On providing cars to holders of pay checks issued by the savings bank of the former USSR.
5. On the mechanism of control over the fulfillment of the trade and economic agreement signed in Minsk on February 14, 1992.
6. On providing cash funds.
7. On the internal state debt of the former USSR.

Ukranian premier Vitold Fokin, who was elected chairman, said, opening the meeting, that it was not attended by the Lithuanian delegation either. He stated the stand of the Ukraine concerning debt-service of the former USSR. In his words the Ukraine suggests that the states that did not sign on December 4, 1991, the agreement on the legal successor and debt-service of the former USSR should review their stand on the issue. According to the premier, making such a proposal "the Ukraine does not refute its previous stand, but the absence of a signature under the document virtually blocks credit relations with countries of the European Community."

According to the government official, states that did not sign the document "are also punished since they have no chance to make use of the credits either." He said the Ukraine insists that it pays its part of the debt—16.4% of the overall absolute sum, however it is ready to discuss the issue of sharing, in agreement with Russia, responsibility over the debt of other republics, with Russia paying 80% through its foreign economic bank and the Ukraine 20% through the state export-import bank or, if the creditors wish, through any first-rate foreign bank.

Some Refuse Joint Responsibility

OW2502203092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1900 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Ukraine's premier Vitold Fokin said that Ukraine was ready to guarantee the repayment of the Soviet debt by the ex- Soviet republics that refused to sign a memorandum on joint and collective responsibility for the Soviet foreign debt in late 1991. He made the statement at a Tuesday [25 February] consultative meeting in Kiev on the ex-Soviet Union's foreign debt.

Apart from Ukraine, the following ex-Soviet republics refused to accept joint responsibility: Azerbaijan, Moldova, Uzbekistan and the Baltic states, with which the CIS would hold a separate negotiation.

Russia has not taken in the Kiev meeting that had been called at Ukraine's initiative [sentence as received]. Western financial agencies were not represented either.

According to Fokin, Ukraine is willing to extend debt repayment guarantees to the seven ex-Soviet republics that reject joint responsibility. Ukraine's share of the debt counted in, this constitutes 26% of the former USSR's foreign debt.

Russia guarantees the repayment of the rest of the debt.

The premier explained that Ukraine had refused to sign the joint responsibility memorandum because it did not specify the exact amount of the foreign debt and the amount of the Soviet Union's assets.

Ukraine, said Fokin, is also opposed to having all debt settlements made through the USSR Vneshekonombank

which was lately placed under Russian authority. Fokin invited the G-7 countries to choose any other bank in or outside the CIS that will take stock of the Soviet Union's assets and liabilities. Ukraine is willing to repay its share and those of the republics that did not sign the joint responsibility memorandum through this bank.

The meeting agreed that experts would prepare proposals for the CIS summit to be held in Kiev on March 20, 1992.

Asked by IF [INTERFAX], a senior staffer at the Russian Foreign Economics Ministry emphasized that he "was not ready to make comments on the results of the Kiev meeting" pending next sitting of the Interstate Council For the Foreign Debt. According to the officer, Russia adheres to the concept of joint responsibility of all Soviet republics for the ex-Soviet Union's debt.

Conference Ends

LD2502215292 Moscow TASS in English 2043 GMT 25 Feb 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondents Valentin Vernodubenko and Aleksey Trotsenko]

[Text] Kiev February 25 TASS—The inter-state consultative conference on the creation of conditions for timely payment of the former Soviet Union's foreign debt ended here today with signing a communique and a memorandum.

The conference, held on the initiative of the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers, was attended by governmental delegations from Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Latvian Republic, the Lithuanian Republic, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and the Estonian Republic.

Opening the conference Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitold Fokin said the Russian delegation, unfortunately, did not come to attend the event, although an invitation was sent to it.

The forum was intensive. Within a day the delegations exchanged opinions on the state foreign debt and assets of the former Soviet Union, the mechanism of payment and servicing of obligations of the former USSR in hard currency, and other issues.

The joint communique says conference participants agreed to create a standing inter-state council overseeing the servicing of foreign debt and use of assets of the former Soviet Union.

They also suggested to remove the Soviet Foreign Economic Bank from the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation and give it the status of a specialized inter-state bank to be subordinated to the inter-state council and act on the basis of the rules adopted by the council.

It will be the plenipotentiary bank to service the foreign debt and control assets of the former Soviet Union.

The memorandum on conference results also included a number of important proposals.

Representatives of the sovereign states praised the forum's outcome.

Adoption of Military Agreements a 'Success'

92UM0609A Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Feb 92 p 1

[Article by Lieutenant Colonel A. Dokuchayev: "First Impressions of the Minsk Agreements: It Is Easier to Live With Hope"]

[Text] I do not know what feelings the officers of the Army and Navy and veterans of the Armed Forces experienced on account of the Agreement Between Member States of the CIS on Social and Legal Guarantees for Servicemen, Individuals Discharged to the Reserves, and Members of Their Families. My feeling was mixed—both joy and bitterness.

There was joy because, paradoxical as it may be, servicemen were guaranteed general civil rights, which they had virtually lost recently, or more precisely, they had been deprived of. From now on servicemen retain citizenship in the Commonwealth member state of which they were citizens prior to being drafted (enlisting) into military service. In addition, servicemen being discharged from military service, as well as members of their families, are entitled to citizenship of the host country, to take up permanent residence in its territory, or to choose another place of residence. Just yesterday this went without saying, but now adoption of a special document has been required to exercise the right in question. It is important that servicemen and members of their families retain those rights and preferences previously granted by laws and other normative acts of the former USSR.

Incidentally, this agreement was reviewed by the Coordinating Council of the Officer Assemblies of the Armed Forces, and was adopted, with observations and additions made by the Army public taken into account. Still the feeling of alarm would not go away... Could this be because we know what the documents previously adopted were worth? Or because the defenders of the Motherland expected more than just guarantees of general civil rights?

As I ponder the lines of the documents, I see in my mind's eye Captain Yuriy Ilyinchik from the Transcaucasus Military District, who visited KRASNAYA ZVEZDA with Captain Tofik Agayev on the eve of the All-Army Conference. Unlike Tofik Agayev, who is serving in his native region, Ilyinchik, along with many fellow officers in the regiment, is concerned about his future. My roots are in Belarus, but who is waiting for me there, he said. The captain turned out to be a prophet. Minsk recently released statistics: In Belarus, there is one serviceman per 43 inhabitants, whereas the ratio in adjacent republics is different. This is to say that there

will hardly be a position for Captain Ilyinchik in his native land anytime soon. And if he is taken in there, dozens of other officers who wish to serve and be discharged in Belarus will be dissatisfied.

I do not know whether the adopted agreement will reassure Captain Ilyinchik. Article 3 says that the Commonwealth states will provide living quarters for servicemen and members of their families in keeping with the legislation of the host country. This is to say that in Belarus there are no prospects for him right now. To be sure, if the officer is discharged and moves to the republic, all rights and preferences established by the legal acts of the former USSR will apply to him, as has already been mentioned. This would be cause for celebration, but our past memories would not let us celebrate. Even in the "best of times," when the Union existed, an officer who was discharged without housing turned into a pariah of sorts. The local authorities did not indulge him. Could it be that these laws will get "a second wind?"

I happened to take part in the proceedings of the Coordinating Council of Officer Assemblies, whose first meeting was held shortly before the Minsk meeting of the heads of states. At that time some officers expressed concern over the adoption of declarations not binding on anyone rather than specific resolutions. It was suggested that we turn to international experience in resolving socio-economic issues which affect servicemen. What is the essence of this experience? In discharging an officer into the reserves or terminating a contract with him, the state pays him an amount necessary to build housing in a particular region at market prices, provides a parcel of land, and gives him guaranteed retirement pay. In a word, questions persisted following the agreement, as well. Those who are now in service in "hot spots" and who are the least socially protected have more questions.

Nonetheless, the agreement is the light at the end of the tunnel for people in uniform.

Captain First Rank Aleksandr Petrov, a member of the Presidium of the Coordinating Council of Officer Assemblies, told me: "We consider the adoption of the agreement a success. First, it was signed by 10 states. Second, it has already given guarantees that the issues which the officers have raised, for example concerning citizenship, will be resolved. Besides, read Article 4. Member states of the Commonwealth undertook to prepare and adopt in 1992 mutually advantageous legislative acts on social protection for servicemen, individuals discharged from military service, and members of their families. We attach our hopes to the wisdom of the parliaments and governments of the Commonwealth countries. There will be an open field for our efforts as well."

Well, it is easier to live with hope.

Comparison of Strategic Forces Agreement

CM2502211892

Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian on 19 February 1992 carries in its First Edition on page 2 the "Agreement Among the Member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States on the Status of the Strategic Forces." Comparison of the ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA item, carried under the "Official Section" rubric, with the translation of the Moscow TASS Russian version published in the 18 February Central Eurasia DAILY REPORT on pages 18-21, reveals the following variations:

Page 18, column two, paragraph seven, sentence two reads: ...enterprises, organizations, military offices, airfields, test sites, command... (rewording);

Same paragraph, sentence five reads: ...positions, training areas, test ranges, firing ranges, fixed-site... (adding "test ranges");

Page 19, column one, paragraph two, sentence two reads: ...—Armenia's special opinion. (rewording).

Comparison of Trade and Economic Accord

CM2502214392

Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian on 19 February 1992 carries in its First Edition on page 2 the "Agreement on the Regulation of Mutual Relations Between the Commonwealth States in the Sphere of Trade and Economic Cooperation in 1992. Comparison of the ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA item, carried under the "Official Section" rubric, with the translation of the Moscow TASS Russian version published in the 18 February Central Eurasia DAILY REPORT on pages 24-26 reveals the following variations:

Page 25, column one, paragraph six, sentence one reads: ...states of the Commonwealth, in accordance with... (rewording);

Page 25, column one, paragraph seven, sentence one reads: ...the basis of matching warrants [naryady na prikrepleniye] issued by the authorized bodies of the parties.

Article 6

The parties agree to adopt the necessary normative acts guaranteeing fulfillment of intergovernmental agreements on deliveries... (supplying vernacular, rewording);

Page 26, column one, paragraph four, sentence one reads: ...and to establish the bodies necessary... (rewording).

Comparison of Minsk Agreement on Supplying Army

CM2502215392

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian on 19 February 1992 carries on page 5 the agreement on supplying the Commonwealth Armed Forces. Comparison of the

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA item, entitled "Agreement on the Principles for Supplying the Armed Forces of States Belonging to the Commonwealth of Independent States With Arms, Equipment, and Material Resources and for Organizing the Production Activity of Repair Enterprises and Scientific Research and Experimental Design Work," with the translation of the Moscow TASS Russian version published in the 18 February Central Eurasia DAILY REPORT on pages 22-23 reveals the following variations:

Page 22, column two, paragraph seven, sentence one reads: ...be reassigned [perepodchinyatsya], redesignated [perenaznachatsya], or privatized... (rewording);

Page 23, column one, paragraph three, sole sentence reads: ...of armaments, military equipment, and property are part of... (rewording);

Page 23, column one, paragraph nine, sentence one reads: ...on 14 February 1992 in one original... (changing year).

Comparison of Defense Budget Agreement

CM2502220492

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 February 1992 carries on pages 1 and 3 the "Agreement Between the Commonwealth of Independent States Member States on the Formation of a Single Defense Budget and the Procedure for Financing the Commonwealth States Armed Forces." Comparison of the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA item with the Moscow TASS Russian version published in the 19 February Central Eurasia DAILY REPORT on pages 11-12 reveals the following variations:

Page 12, column one, paragraph six, sole sentence reads: ...of production and economic activities... (rewording);

Page 12, column one, paragraph eight, sole sentence reads: ...taken of their implementation and relevance, within... (rewording);

Page 12, column two, paragraph three, sole sentence reads: ...budget as endorsed, problems of determining the amount involved and the procedure for payment into the single defense budget and financing the Commonwealth States Armed Forces shall be resolved in accordance with... (adding clause and rewording);

Page 12, column two, paragraph six, sole sentence reads: ...whom have made specific reservations.

The document contains the following minority view, signed by the... (rewording in two places)

Comparison of General Purpose Forces Agreement

CM2612134992

Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian on 21 February 1992 carries in its First Edition on page 3 the CIS Agreement on General Purpose Forces. Comparison of the ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA item, entitled "Agreement Between the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan on General Purpose Forces for the Transitional Period," with the translation of the Moscow TASS Russian version published in the 18 February Central Eurasia DAILY REPORT, page 21, reveals the following variation:

Page 21, column two, first paragraph, sole sentence reads: ...with their consent, to the High Command of the Joint... (rewording).

Military

Shaposhnikov Views Future Role of Armed Forces

LD2402235792 Moscow Radio Moscow in French 1700 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Report on interview with Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the Commonwealth of Independent States Armed Forces; questions are read by the studio announcer; Shaposhnikov answers in Russian with superimposed French translation—recorded]

[Excerpts] The Russian leadership and the Commonwealth of Independent States Armed Forces Command has decided to proclaim 23 February as Armed Forces Day. Although it is being commemorated on the same date as the former Soviet Armed Forces and Naval Day, it is planned to change the emotional and political mood of the day: no more speeches and no more formal ceremonies.

Today, the Armed Forces are faced with several problems in connection with reform in the new conditions of the CIS. The latest CIS summit in Minsk defined the main policy lines and here is an interview with Marshal Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Armed Forces.

The first question was what are the prospects for reform of the ex-Soviet Army?

[Shaposhnikov] I believe that in the end all the Armed Forces can be divided up according to national or state principles—the CIS is not a state, but a group of states which does not have a single center, so the final objective of any state is complete independence and everything which follows from this. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] It is often said that the CIS Armed Forces are placed above the state. What is your opinion?

[Shaposhnikov] At present, 11 chiefs of strategic forces and eight chiefs of conventional forces are subordinate to me, and that is difficult. I cannot alone make any decision, particularly if it is a serious and important one. It is a little easier in the area of current business—we have established a Council of Defense Ministers of the CIS to complete the documents which were not able to be signed in Minsk, as well as the mechanisms for the

implementation of decisions. The defense ministers will work in close contact with their respective presidents.

[Announcer] Here is yet another question from our correspondent: The Baltic countries insist that the troops of the former USSR should be withdrawn from their territory as quickly as possible.

[Shaposhnikov] We are in agreement on the withdrawal of our troops from the Baltic countries and we are in the process of doing this. A special commission is dealing with the matter. There have been several rounds of talks, but it is still early to be talking of a specific program. In my opinion, we must not rush too much, because it is an extremely costly operation, and second, social guarantees have to be given to the soldiers in units which will be withdrawn. Russia will fund part of the operation and the Baltic republics will shoulder the rest.

[Announcer] Should one expect the withdrawal of CIS forces from regions where there is social tension?

[Shaposhnikov] If no political settlement is reached, for example in the Transcaucasus, in Nagorno-Karabakh, then I personally will press for the withdrawal of all troops from these regions, because there are risks that they will be sucked into the conflict. A partial withdrawal of troops from Chechnya already is underway.

[Announcer] The next question: What is your attitude toward the problem of arms sales?

[Shaposhnikov] This year we have reduced the production of military materiel and armaments, but that does not mean that we are giving up exporting them. We consider that we should not halt the military industry overnight. First, there are people working in this sector—some 30 million people in total; and second, we must sell arms only to stable regimes, and if we buy technological equipment for the manufacture of consumer goods with the currency earned, then we can find the way out of the crisis.

[Announcer] In conclusion, here is Marshal Shaposhnikov's opinion of President Yeltsin's initiatives in the field of reducing armaments, in particular the joint plan with the United States with a view to creating a global system of antimissile defense.

[Shaposhnikov] Boris Yeltsin formulated an interesting initiative in New York. Our attitude with regard to this is positive. We are not behind international technological thought and on some points we are even ahead of it, but our misfortune is a low level of technology and it takes a long time to put our ideas into concrete form. This is why, if we reached agreement with the Americans, it would be our contribution to the global antimissile defense system.

General on Combat Readiness, Manning, Future

LD2502221592 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1900 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Report on interview with Major General Aleksandr Gribov by "Novaya Volna" commentator Kim Kukholev; place and date not given]

[Text] Some of the most burning questions today that require immediate resolution are those of war and peace, or more plainly, of the fate of our Armed Forces, their reform, and everything that is connected with the life of the Army and Navy. After all, millions of people are behind them. Behind them are also mighty weapons and immense material expenditures which fall on the shoulders of the people.

Not only politicians but everyone who is not indifferent to what will happen to us tomorrow, has understood: One should no longer experiment with the Army, just as one should not fail to introduce a certain clarity in its legal status, role and destiny, the more so if one speaks of the main force of the Army, its strategic missile forces. I have just returned from a military camp where missile men live and serve, who are called upon in the line of duty to tackle these very strategic tasks. Listen to what I discussed with their commander, Major General Aleksandr Viktorovich Gribov.

[Begin recording] [Kukholev] Aleksandr Viktorovich, can it be said that the drawing up and implementation of a single, agreed military doctrine and nuclear strategy of the states of the Commonwealth on the basis of the well-known concept of collective security, is what military people want or desire?

[Gribov] You have asked the question in a somewhat unusual way. Indeed, military people want some stability in military affairs. It is my view, that, after all everyone should do his own job, work as a professional, with understanding, be able to analyse things. In my view our present day politicians do not fully possess this ability of getting to the bottom of military affairs, something which the Army suffers from in the first place.

That is why it is my view that it would be desirable to make it possible for the military people to work out their own concept, to subsequently analyze it in depth, so as to be able to prove it to our politicians and to have it adopted. So far a process that is diametrically different has been under way.

[Kukholev] Do you think that this opportunity of working out one's own concept should come from politicians?

[Gribov] Of course, this should be the case to a certain extent; that is to say, they should provide some sort of an outline of a framework within which the argument should be conducted. But they should not dictate their will, irrespective of their knowledge of the situation. So far, it is precisely this process that has been under way: They tell us that such and such ought to be the case. But

when this begins to be implemented, it then turns out that things are far from what one wants them to be.

[Kukholev] I think I am right if I say that you calmed down when you learned the fact that strategic containment forces or strategic missile forces remained unified. Were you relieved?

[Gribov] I must say that I believed in our politicians having common sense and fortunately, I was not mistaken. I did not believe they could be divided because that was impossible—both organizationally and technically—impossible in every respect. Therefore, this news was not some kind of surprise which brought great relief. Yes, it is good that it has come to that, but now this should be backed by concrete deeds. True, we now have single strategic containment forces on paper. That is, each soldier, regardless of what independent state he has been drafted from, must serve with us honestly and conscientiously. But [word indistinct] this is not the case and I cannot even guess when this will become a reality.

[Kukholev] Still one can, perhaps, say that strategic containment forces or strategic missile forces are the cementing base which unites all our Armed Forces.

[Gribov] Naturally, this is precisely the case, you have given a correct description of our type of armed forces. It is, indeed, the cornerstone on which I think our states' security is founded. In my view it is absolutely impermissible to denigrate this concept.

[Kukholev] This is clear. There is yet another issue I would like to discuss with you. Recently some of our politicians put forward such Russian initiatives as, for instance, to attain zero combat readiness. I have in mind the following: Andrey Kozyrev, minister of foreign affairs, said in Geneva that Russia proposes to completely remove from alert duty the missiles of Russia, the United States and other nuclear powers targetted at each other and to attain the so-called zero readiness. It was stressed at the same time that the strategic missiles of CIS member states are still targeted at the United States.

Simultaneously a proposal was made to the effect that the missiles and the nuclear warheads should be stored separately, that is, that the charges and their carriers should be kept at a fairly large distance from each other. In our foreign affairs minister's view, this would give guarantees against unsanctioned or accidental use of nuclear weapons. I have the following question to ask you as a military man: Your forces, the strategic missile forces are a weapon of retaliation, so to speak, which should be triggered immediately after a possible attack on our country. If these missiles and nuclear warheads are situated far from each other, what kind of a retaliatory weapon is this?

[Gribov] Well, I believe that this talk about zero readiness is not professional, in my view. This could be in a way acceptable for tactical weapons: Here is a gun and a shell, they could be separated and then quickly brought together. But to disconnect heads from our missiles, say, and to store them separately in present day conditions, in the conditions that have taken shape in our independent countries, I believe, will lead to complete loss of combat readiness. One should not make a secret of the fact that the attitude of officers and other servicemen to performing their duty has deteriorated. This is quite a natural reaction to the situation that has taken shape.

In addition, if troops are put in such conditions we will lose the guarantee of being able to deliver any retaliatory strike at all. This is my opinion and, I believe, it is not something said off the cuff. I have thought about this subject more than once and, in my view, in no way should we agree to that.

[Kukholev] I even get the feeling that in certain circumstances your formation could turn into toy soldiers [poteshnyy polk].

[Gribov] Perhaps that is so, because if the troops do not have any combat training, if there is no precise combat duty of that kind, what commander can guarantee that if the need arise they will carry out the task? One has to train constantly in order to carry out a particular task. Under the conditions of the missile troops this applies more than in any other area. We hold exercises, we do not hold launches. We carry out training; again we have no combat usage. If on top of this you remove this permanent duty, if you remove this permanent readiness, then it is totally unclear. I simply cannot predict what it might lead to. But one thing I can say firmly: It will not lead to anything good.

[Kukholev] During this conversation today there have been a lot of critical remarks or complaints but I would like you to talk some more about the chief difficulties that lie in wait for you now or that have already affected you—about maintaining the strength of your subunits. I know that things are utterly bad with this year's call-up and that some of your subunits are literally down to half the necessary number of people. How are you getting over this situation?

[Gribov] Yes, the manning issue is the most complex issue at the moment. It became more complicated to an unforeseen extent. Well I'm not going to talk to you in terms of specific figures but in percentage terms we do indeed have some detachments which are one third down, and that means that combat readiness is already greatly lowered. Of course we act as follows: Under our present conditions we man those combat units upon which combat readiness directly depends. This is done at the expense of sharply reducing the manning of units belonging to the special troops and the rear. This means great difficulties in doing one's service in general duties details and on guard duty, that is to say providing life support services.

But the main thing is not just the fact that we are short of a lot of men but that those we do have—and this applies to a large number of people—are servicemen whose attitude to their service is cool. But if we are talking more realistically they do not want to serve. There is a similar

problem with those called up from Central Asia and the Caucasus. The latest call-up, especially that from Uzbekistan, amounted to a virtually complete lack of desire to fulfill the obligations laid down for them, although they have taken the oath and know that the president of Uzbekistan has expressed the desire and has confirmed in documentary form that they have to serve. However, this service, as such, does not exist.

[Kukholev] Does that mean that they want to serve at home?

[Gribov] They declare straight out that we want to serve on our territory. I understand their desire and their wish, and I sympathize to some extent. But we have a job to do. So we have to have an urgent review of the system of manpower acquisition. We should acquire manpower by means of local conscripts above all, and not people brought in from somewhere else.

[Kukholev] Then one cannot help asking the question: Who should in fact maintain you? Surely not Russia alone?

[Gribov] So far, according to my information, it is Russia alone that maintains us, although according to all canons of the state and the military everyone whom we are defending should take a share and recognize that we are defending our Commonwealth of Independent States. This is recognized in documents, but in real life Russia is bearing the full burden of this budget alone. Of course one would like our independent states and countries join in this without delay. We feel the meagreness of this budget.

[Kukholov] We must remember that we are talking on the eve of the day of the Soviet Army and Navy which may well be given a different name in the very near future—perhaps it will be Armed Forces Day or something else. So speaking traditionally, talking as we always do about our shield of fire, about the combat capability of the missile troops who in the event of something happening are still our chief defense—how do you assess the state of combat readiness of the units and subunits that have been entrusted to you?

[Gribov] I consider that our units and subunits are combat ready and capable of carrying out their task although there are some very considerable difficulties on this path. But I can say that the collective of officers in the main understands: It does what is required of it. But I am very glad that this day has not been cancelled. Marshal of the Air Force Shaposhnikov, the commander in chief of what are now the unified Armed Forces has already issued orders to prepare to mark 23 February as a holiday and consequently we will try to act in such a way that the population of our townlet sees that we are alive and are trying to fulfill everything that we have to and we will celebrate this holiday first and foremost in a disciplined way, of course.

[Kukholev] My last question: What feelings predominate as you approach this holiday—concern, alarm, dissatisfaction? Perhaps something else?

[Gribov] Clearly, there is a whole range of feelings and all those that you have listed are there. But nevertheless I do feel some satisfaction that this holiday of ours has been retained, a holiday both for the servicemen and for the whole of the people that inhabits our countries. I would like to take this opportunity to convey my very best wishes to my fellow servicemen in the first place, to all servicemen of the unified armed forces, and to express the wish that they do not lose heart, that they maintain the stability for which the army has always been renowned. I would like to wish them all the very best in their service and to remind them that if we servicemen give up heart, then it will be something irretrievable. [end recording]

Coordinating Council Chairman Interviewed

PM2502142192 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
22 Feb 92 p 1

[Report by Colonel Viktor Baranets: "Comrade Serviceman, Nevertheless Yours Is Not an Easy Lot..."]

[Excerpt] Tomorrow is a holiday—Army Day. But somehow nobody feels like being happy and nobody feels up to the noisy celebrations of the past. It is turning out to be a sad kind of birthday, which in itself goes against the grain.

In one place people will not divide the Fleet for anything; in another they are seizing weapons; and in a third they are positively driving out those whom they call "occupiers." Things are usually most difficult for the soldier in wartime. But this is peacetime, after all... Although, for many of those serving in the Transcaucasus, that period ended long ago. The Army is paying heavily for the politicians' mistakes. Tired of interminable partitioning and ambiguity, it is lending its voice increasingly loudly to its own defense. It was heard at the All-Army Officers' Assembly, which took place in mid-January. It was there that a decision was made to set up the Coordinating Council of Officers' Assemblies, whose main task is to uphold the interests of the officers' corps and to reflect the Army's position. I put several questions to Captain First Rank A. Mochaykin, chairman of the Coordinating Council.

[Baranets] On my way here, I saw a leaflet urging people to ignore Army Day.

[Mochaykin] This is political fever-mongering. Nobody will take this holiday away from the Army. The same goes for its history—its dazzling but tragic history. The Russian president spoke well of the holiday and the defenders of the fatherland in an interview to Russian Television last Wednesday, 26 February. I would also like to thank him for the Decree on the Social Protection of Servicemen and for his good wishes on the occasion of this holiday. The defense of the motherland is the noblest of tasks. Now the time has come for the motherland to defend its defenders.

[Baranets] But for many military people today the concept of "motherland" or "fatherland" has become vague. For example, a Russian, a Belarussian, or a Kazakh may be serving in the Ukrainian Army, each being a citizens of his own country and considering it his motherland. Or is it that today the motherland is no longer the country where you were born but rather the one which gives you an apartment and pays your wage?

[Mochaykin] This is merely one of thousands of examples where half-baked and hasty decisions are putting military people in a difficult position and radically altering their fate. Our council is committed to dealing with the social protection of servicemen. Protection from whom? Our politicians? But what kind of politicians are they if their decisions severely damage our Army? Places where there is a serious divergence between the interests of politicians' and the Army, no longer have serious policies or a strong army...

[Baranets] The council appeared at a time when the Army was already being torn asunder...

[Mochaykin] The Army, like the whole country, was unexpectedly confronted with an accomplished fact at the end of last year. Had the officers known about it beforehand, then much could have been done differently... Both the Assembly and the Council were late for their wedding, so to speak...

[Baranets] But the Council had already made its presence seriously felt in Minsk...

[Mochaykin] Yes, we introduced proposals to the package of military documents. In particular, proposals on establishing a transition period until 1995, on the principles for the Army's manpower acquisition, on the adoption of citizenship by servicemen, on providing them with accommodation, and so on. Many proposals were studied. Unfortunately the Coordinating Council's statement which I was tasked to deliver at the meeting went unheard.

[Baranets] Why?

[Mochaykin] President Kravchuk, who chaired the meeting, did not give me the floor.

[Baranets] What left the greatest impression at the Minsk meeting?

[Mochaykin] Getting to know the presidents personally, and what seems to me to be a lack of readiness by some to thoroughly resolve military questions. This is why some people are starting to portray Marshal Shaposhnikov as an extremist... Again, there was a strange alienation between the military making up the delegations. As if even two months ago we were no longer serving in one Army...

[Baranets] Nevertheless, did the Council fulfill its tasks in Minsk?

[Mochaykin] Not entirely. A lot of sensible suggestions from troop officers were successfully forwarded. But at the same time there were moments when our position was not given any attention. The appearance of the officers' social institution on such a high political stage is a unique phenomenon. Only time will tell how it may develop. [passage omitted]

Northern Fleet Situation: 'There is No Fuel'

PM2402151692 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 22 Feb 92

[Report by A. Krutov, A. Anuchin, and A. Uchinin; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Krutov] Today a U.S. submarine is more likely to be found off our native shores than a warship of ours is to be found at sea, never mind the ocean. The North Sea military seamen are standing combat duty without leaving their moorings. The destroyers and large and small ASW ships are tied by firm hemp ropes to the shore. And many ships have not even found room by the shore. [Addressing sailors] When did you last go to sea?

[Unidentified sailor] In November.

[Krutov] And now it is the end of February. And the ships are standing still not through the fault of the Fleet Command but for a simple reason—there is no fuel. The flow of fuel abroad is not drying up yet in our country the entire Northern Fleet is laid up. But surely you cannot become a class-rated seaman without going out onto the ocean or learn naval skills on the shore? So that the Northern Fleet seamen's mood today is not a festive one. Especially as now one can often hear the navy and army spoken of as parasites yet an officer on a warship receives half the wage of a bus driver. Draftee sailors receive 70-100 rubles and a packet of cigarettes cost 15 rubles, and you cannot buy it here anyway. So our sons cadge cigarettes from every new arrival. And what confusion we have introduced and are continuing to introduce into these boys' hearts with our reprisals, repartitions, divisions, and sovereignization, and now letters from home are reaching the Northern Fleet, saying: "Come back to your own motherland, son." Yet the son has sworn loyalty to a single fatherland and has joined the Navy family, which is not divided into nationalities and indeed could not survive any other way, just as the Navy will not survive but will expire if it is divided along national lines.

[V.A. Timoshenko, commander of the destroyer Rastoropnyy] And nonetheless I hope that the political darkness will pass in the near future. The Fleet was common property and it should guard the common borders of the entire Commonwealth.

Economic & Social

Threat of Controllers' Strike 'Not Eliminated'

PM2502124692 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 20 Feb 92

[Report by O. Vlasenko; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Vlasenko] The threat of a strike by the air traffic controllers has not been eliminated. It is no accident that the air traffic controllers have decided on such a radical measure, which would lead to the paralysis of the country's air traffic. This is not the first warning from the sector's workers. There was a signal in May last year. At the time the air traffic controllers put forward economic demands. It is worth recalling that this profession is a unique one: It is included in the list of professions with particularly harmful and hard working conditions. In May the USSR Ministry of Civil Aviation made partial concessions: The air traffic controllers' salaries were increased although, it is true, only by 50 percent. Now demands of an administrative nature are being made and primarily for the creation under the government of a single organization uniting Russia's military and civilian air traffic controllers. Nor did the air traffic controllers like the spehre of activity of the recently created Interstate Aviation Committee, the successor to the Union structures. But now its chairman, Anozina, has stated that the committee is retaining only coordinating functions. Demands are also being made for a reduction to the working day within the framework of international conventions regulating the norms of air traffic controllers' tours of duty.

Industrialists, Entrepreneurs Gather in Moscow

MK2502125592 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 25 Feb 92 p 2

[Report by Vladimir Strakhov: "Unified, But Not Just for the Sake of It"]

[Text] Unlike politicians, industrial circles in the former USSR are now ready to cooperate in a single economic area. Representatives of 15 independent states—the members of the Commonwealth of Independent States along with Georgia and the three Baltic states—gathered in Moscow to announce the creation of the International Congress of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs [ICIE]. This independent public association aims to pursue a coordinated economic policy and take joint action against monopolism and bureaucracy and in defense of defend consumers' rights. Industrialists and entrepreneurs from Bulgaria, Hungary, and the Czech republic have said that they may participate in the ICIE.

"We have no conflicts, we just have common problems"—was the theme of the speeches made by all participants in the ICIE assembly. Figures were cited that affect to a greater or lesser extent all the republics of the former Union. Industrial production fell by more than 15 percent this January, while extraction of coal and oil fell by 10 and 12 percent respectively; production of finished rolled metal fell by almost one-third, and production of automobiles and tractors fell by 20 and 40 percent respectively (tractor production was halved in Russia). Decades-old ties between different regions are being severed, and this is, moreover, often being done artificially. Almost all members of the ICIE said that pressure must be put on their parliaments and governments to ensure that they do not stifle industrialists and entrepreneurs once and for all.

The next session of the ICIE council is scheduled to be held in Azerbaijan in April.

Media

TASS Carries Press Review for 26 Feb

LD2602061692 Moscow TASS in English 0535 GMT 26 Feb 92

["Press Review"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow February 26 TASS—Numerous articles published by the press today deal with the future of the Armed Forces. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA stresses that the situation with the personnel of the missile troops became another stumbling block in Russian- Ukrainian relations. The newspaper carries a report from Kharkov, Ukraine, which is entitled "Agreements Are One Thing And Real Situation Is Another". It stresses that the taking of the oath by some servicemen of the missile troops, deplopyed in Ukraine, "is undermining a single process of training officers for the missile troops."

All newspapers give wide coverage to the situation of the Army units in the hotbeds of tension in the Commonwealth. NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes that the Armenian leadership is accusing Azerbaijan of "state terrorism" and stresses that the CIS troops deployed in Nagorno-Karabakh continue to be neutral. The newspaper also quotes the opinion of the Azerbaijani side, which accuses the Armenian side of the escalation of the armed confrontation. According to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, that the regular Army units are siding with Armenians. [sentence as received]

According to PRAVDA, combat operations in Nagorno-Karabakh are getting more and more fierce. In the opinion of the newspaper, "the destruction of Stepanakert [Khankendy] is a planned, deliberate action." In addition to that, the Azerbaijani side fired from "Grad" missile launching installations at some district administrative centers, which resulted in casualties and destruction.

Lieutenant Colonel Mussa Merzhuyev, chief of staff of the defence forces of the Chechen Republic, has given an interview to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA dealing with the military-political situation in the Republic. He favours the creation of a collective defence system within the CIS framework.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA carries an article by Russian Minister of Industry Aleksandr Titkin, which deals with ways of overcoming the economic crisis. He stresses that "in order to achieve a more rapid and successful restructuring of the production sphere in line with market relations, the state should give preference to labour collectives in the privatisation process."

PRAVDA publishes an article entitled "Who Will Be the First To Get on His Feet Again", which deals with economic relations between Russia and Latvia. The newspaper points out that politics in Russian-Latvian relations "are being replaced by the economic interest, which is inevitable in conditions of the energy crisis, food shortages and numerous problems to be resolved. The liberalisation of prices, the preparation of the Baltic countries for the introduction of their own currencies and the forthcoming privatisation induce the partners to pass over from partnership to competition." According to PRAVDA, "the current economic relations between the two countries can hardly be regarded as satisfactory."

International Affairs

Woerner Sees 'New Chapter' in Relations

OW2502183392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1640 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] General Secretary of NATO Manfred Woerner said in a news conference Tuesday [25 February] that his visit to Moscow was an important step forward on the way to partnership and cooperation between NATO and Russia. He characterized his talks with the Russian Government as successful. According to Woerner they created a new chapter in the relationship between democratic Russia and NATO. This relationship is of great significance in maintaining peace in Europe, the General Secretary said.

Woerner said, "The enemy has vanished. We no longer see Russia, CIS nations, and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe as opponents. We consider them partners".

Nevertheless, Woerner stated that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization does not intend to come undone, it will reform. He described NATO as the only existing effective organization able to maintain international order and stability.

Manfred Woerner praised the decision by leaders of CIS nations to preserve unified command of nuclear weapons but expressed concern over the "brain drain" of Soviet nuclear and chemical scientists.

He noted that Ukraine and Russia have some difference on security problems, which are, in his opinion, natural. NATO is interested in good friendly relations between republics of the former Soviet Union. He also stressed NATO's interest in ratification of the nuclear arms nonproliferation agreement as soon as possible.

The NATO Secretary General said that during his meeting with Chairman of the Russian parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov they had discussed prospects for cooperation not only in scientific research and conversion, but also in drawing up a military budget. Speaking about the conversion, Woerner said that setting up of joint ventures with Western countries was essential.

Woerner noted that his talks with Russian leaders and Commander in Chief of the CIS Armed Forces Marshal Shaposhnikov had not touched upon the incident in the Barents Sea when Russian and American submarines collided.

Addressing the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, Woerner said that NATO wants its to be settled peacefully and expressed hope that the CIS will play a stabilizing role.

NATO Concerns for CIS 'Destiny' Eyed

LD2502122192 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1210 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Commentary by Anatoliy Potapov]

[Excerpts] The NATO secretary general, Mr. Manfred Woerner, is staying for an official visit in Moscow. He is having meetings with the Russian leaders. Mr. Woerner has already visited Kiev. More on the visit from our commentator Anatoliy Potapov.

[Potapov] [passage omitted] Understandably NATO has fears that the breakup of the USSR may lead not only to a delay in the schedule of action on the accords already reached but also to stalling the current Vienna talks. In his meetings here Mr. Woerner does not conceal at all that the NATO leaders and many Western politicians and military officials are quite concerned with the destiny of the strategic nuclear weapons following the breakup of the USSR.

There's another cardinal direction in Manfred Woerner's talks here. On 10 March in Brussels all the Commonwealth countries will be accepted into the North Atlantic Coordination Council. NATO underlines that the Council's functions are to promote the cooperation precisely in enhancing Europe's security. Mr. Woerner believes that NATO alone is a reliable guarantor in this security process today. Hence the following concept: NATO could grant its infrastructure, logistic support, lines of communication, and even armed forces within the Helsinki process to maintain peace if there is a need.

I don't accept the concept. It belittles the importance of the all-European structures in the Helsinki process and actually proclaims a factor of the dominant role of NATO in the European security system, which is intended to be collective, not by blocs. I understand the position of France, which has a negative attitude to this NATO concept. But the coming acceptance of the Commonwealth countries to the North Atlantic Coordination Council is certainly a positive phenomenon that holds out the promise of greater trust between the former adversaries in different areas of cooperation and the creation of an atmosphere of partnership. That is, of course, a new form of international interaction due to the cardinal political changes of our times.

CIS To Attend NATO Council Session

LD2502142992 Lisbon RTP-1 Television Network in Portuguese 1300 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] The CIS will attend the CSCE [as heard] meeting on 10 March for the first time. This was revealed by NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner to our correspondent in Moscow, Carlos Fino, after the former's meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin:

[Fino] Definitely agreed here in Moscow: The countries of the new CIS, including Russia and Ukraine, will participate for the first time in the 10 March North

Atlantic Cooperation Council meeting. In an exclusive interview, Manfred Woerner said that this participation will launch an extensive program of contacts and cooperation, both in the military and civilian sectors, between NATO and the former Warsaw Pact members. Namely, NATO will provide technical aid for the reconversion of military industries and for turning the former Soviet Armed Forces into a professional army.

Manfred Woerner also expressed his satisfaction over the measures being taken here to control nuclear weapons. There is no danger of nuclear proliferation in the immediate future, he stressed. What now concerns NATO countries the most, Woerner said, is the potential emigration to third countries by Soviet nuclear experts. We will help so that these people can continue to work where they are.

Woerner also said that the West should believe in Yeltsin, as he is a man of great courage and determination, and truly interested in democracy and reform. I believe, Woerner said, that if anyone can carry out these reforms in Russia it will be precisely Yeltsin.

Woerner also noted the excellent support he has been receiving from the Portuguese Embassy during his trip to Russia.

Khasbulatov Welcomes 'Positive Role'

LD2502132592 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1301 GMT 25 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Ryabkin and Aleksey Tabachnikov: "Russia Welcomes the Positive Role Now Being Played by NATO in the International Arena, Says Head of Russia's Parliament"]

[Text] Moscow, Feb 25 (TASS)—We view with great satisfaction the fact that military confrontation is in headlong decline. This was disclosed by Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov at his meeting here today with NATO General Secretary Manfred Woerner. The leader of the Russian parliament stressed that the Russian Federation welcomes the positive role currently being played by NATO in the international arena. For his part, Manfred Woerner stated that now, after the end of the "cold war," the time has come to establish partnership between the former adversaries. The talks took place in camera.

Yeltsin, Lukin Discuss Relations With U.S.

LD2502171792 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1601 GMT 25 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksandras Budris]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Feb (TASS)—Problems of and prospects for the development of bilateral relations and issues of the implementation of the accords reached between the Russian Federation and the United States of America were thoroughly discussed in the Kremlin today by Boris Yeltsin, president of Russia, and Vladimir Lukin, who was recently appointed Russian Federation ambassador to the United States.

The meeting also discussed mutual obligations for the two countries' participation and interaction in strengthening security and cooperation in the world in the light of the new world political reality now taking shape.

The ITAR-TASS correspondent learned about the meeting's content at the Russian Government press center.

Text of Khasbulatov Strasbourg Speech Issued

Discusses Developing 'Civil Society'

LD2602093392 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1540 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Speech by Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov to the Council of Europe at the European Parliament in Strasbourg; date not given; from the "Russian Parliamentarians in Strasbourg" program—recorded]

[Text] It would be a mistake, too, not to see new difficulties coming into being that are associated with the deformed development of the economy, with the interethnic conflicts and with very acute social problems. Sad though it is to say it, the appearance of such difficulties is evidently the inevitable price that has to be paid as a side effect of the crushing of the neototalitarian structures and the release of human energy toward which the constructive initiative always strives.

The process of entry into the market structure is proceeding in an especially painful way in our country. The recipes that the world community has for economic recovery are not always and in every respect acceptable for our country. However, in trying to present some of these recipes in absolute terms we unfortunately make some major mistakes and errors which are quite painful for large sections of the population. Here, of course, particular responsibility lies with the Russian parliament as the most representative state institution. Russian parliamentarians are obliged to raise their voices when the adoption of particular measures by the government leads to the introduction of a sharp imbalance in the economy, to the spread of poverty and to social and psychological unease.

It is for this very reason that Russia's parliament has been subjecting the government's actions to fairly tough criticism recently and has demanded that it amend some of the steps it has taken. At the same time, it supports the government at critical times. In general, this kind of approach is evidently a usual and absolutely normal thing for you, esteemed colleagues, in democratic states, but as you know from the mass media the thinking of our people has not become accustomed to the exercise of parliamentary power in such a way. Very often this criticism from parliament is received as something

unusual, as a demand for a return to the old orders, and so on, which has nothing whatsoever in common with the truth.

In this auditorium it is no doubt more important to stress something else: Both the legislative and executive power in Russia are united in that our strategic line is for the all-round, democratic reform of a free Russia, for the creation of market economic development based on the principles of competition and the granting of the widest sphere of activity to any citizen, including economic rights to undertake any type of activity.

Esteemed colleagues! We see the key area of cooperation in Europe today in mutual interest and mutual support in strengthening stability and security, in the further development and deepening of democracy and human rights and freedoms and the creation of conditions for a worthy life for each and every person, particularly in our former East European countries and of course in our own Russian Federation. International cooperation in the field of democracy is an essential condition for the irreversibility of the Russian democratic reforms and for the formation of a real and true democratic space on the scale of the former countries of the Soviet Union.

We believe that we, too, ought to be raising in a new way the question of the role of nongovernmental public organizations, professional and religious alliances. Their contribution to the development of Russian democracy ought to be much higher than it is today. The problems of democracy that arise cannot of course be the exclusive patrimony of the state. Civil society must be of growing importance here. Of course the parliamentary structures cannot monopolize the right to reflect public opinion either. It is essential that other public organizations be developed and supported. In this matter the Russian parliament supports the development of public organizations.

Issues of the new, transnational, role of the mass information media and communications are of importance for us. Where Russia is concerned this question acquires particular significance, since the press and the other mass information media sometimes cross ethical boundaries that are generally recognized in the democratic countries of the West. The press is sometimes so carried away by the sweet word "freedom" that it involuntarily becomes a tool of struggle against representative Russian democracy which is barely at the developing stage.

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the new role of the parliamentary structures in resolving global and regional problems within the framework of international cooperation, particularly on the continent of Europe, has been stressed at many of the recent sessions of the Russian parliament. Of course this is particularly important because of the ending of the era of the "cold war", the ideological and East-West confrontation. Under these conditions issues concerning the coming into being and formation of new international structures, including interparliamentary structures, are topical.

We know the considerable role of the Council of Europe in the new European architecture which is taking shape today on the continent. The possibilities for the Council of Europe to move forward the principles of democracy and human rights and in developing humanitarian, legal and cultural cooperation are particularly great. The Council of Europe will find Russia to be an active and reliable partner, sharing the great humanist principles that have been accumulated by world civilizations over centuries. We are ready to build up our relations with the Council of Europe, making it our task for Russia to enter this organization as a member possessing full rights.

Today Europe's parliamentarians are getting unprecedented real opportunities for cooperation and for exerting a real influence upon the process of the construction of a new Europe with the participation of the democracies of Eastern Europe. Russia's parliament is prepared to make a most active and innovative contribution to this cooperation and to open up any proposals from its European colleagues for constructive discussion. Thank you for your attention.

Assesses Russia as 'European Power'

LD2602100792 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1540 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Interview with Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov by Russian Federation People's Deputy Sergey Nosovets in Strasbourg; date not given; on the "Russian Parliamentarians in Strasbourg" program—recorded]

[Text] [Nosovets] Ruslan Imranovich. I think that it is quite possible that when our electorate assesses and analyzes this trip, this visit, they might be rather skeptical because our electorate is not in the mood for this sort of thing right now. They are in a difficult position and a complicated situation. But, what is the need for such a visit, for you as leader of parliament or for parliament and, in the final analysis, for the electorate also?

[Khasbulatov] It goes without saying that Russia is a major European power. It should carry out its functions as such a major European country to the full, including, of course, participating in all these international, pan-European institutions. The Council of Europe where you and I have been sitting is one such instrument, one of those very prestigious and respected international forums where, in general, the fate of Europe is decided to a large extent—questions of international policy, questions of support or, on the contrary, the absence of support for particular countries, particular regimes, for the policies which are being implemented by certain specific states.

In this sense, it seems to me that the fact that the chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Russia was invited here gave us the opportunity, here in the Council of Europe, to frankly express what official policy concepts we have, what our motives are in implementing the

transition to market relations, how the democratic process is developing, what problems and difficulties we have, what the relationship is between the Russian state and the European Community. That is one side.

The other side is that, all the same, our democracy is a young democracy and we probably have some things to learn, without trying to take on board absolutely, to absolutize some particular experience. You have probably noticed how critical I have been in pointing out that attempts to absolutely copy some Western economic recipes sometimes make our position worse and do not at all promote the healing of our sick economy. That is the second side.

The third side is that you have seen the vast interest being shown in our internal affairs. In this sense, and I have already said this many times, politicians here often draw their information from the mass media or from people in general, both our fellow citizens and their own fellow citizens, who do not particularly understand what is going on. Therefore, as you have seen, you and I, and myself in particular, devoted the major part of my time to telling authoritative Western politicians about the real processes, showing them the real picture and not an artificial one.

That is, it was interesting to us from the point of view both of learning and of providing information. So to say that some—you know I do not like it when one of our politician says this visit of mine was historic. I do not see anything historical in this case, of course, although, indeed, it is the first time that one of our representatives has spoken here. I do not see anything particularly historic here. We did not come here to conclude any treaties or contracts but just to show the face of our Russian parliament, to acquaint the parliamentrians with our work and at the same time to see how they work.

Burbulis, Latvia's Godmanis on Reforms

LD2502230192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 25 Feb 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The problem of economic cooperation between Russia and Latvia was discussed by representatives of these governments today.

[Correspondent V. Perfilyev] Gennadiy Burbulis today received Ivars Godmanis, the head of the Latvian Government, who is in Moscow. The state of and prospects for the development of relations between Russia and Latvia were discussed.

[Begin Godmanis recording] The Russian Government is carrying out reforms, and we in Latvia are also carrying out reforms. They are very difficult ones, and I believe it is very important that we support one another in these reforms. The tempo of the reforms varies somewhat. In Latvia which, so to speak, is a smaller country, these reforms progress at one speed, and in Russia at another speed. It is very important that we coordinate our actions. [end recording]

[Perfilyev] Official talks also took place today between government delegations headed by Yegor Gaydar and Ivars Godmanis, during the course of which an agreement on trade and economic commitments for the current year was signed.

Economic Agreement Detailed

LD2502230892 Moscow TASS in English 2151 GMT 25 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksandras Budris]

[Text] Moscow February 26 [dateline as received]—Russia will supply mostly fuel and lubricants to Latvia. Latvia, in turn, will deliver to Russia oil refining, chemical and petro-chemical, enigneering and metal-working industry products, ferrous rolled stock and food products.

These shipments are stipulated by the indicative lists of commodities to be supplied by the sides to each other in 1992. They were endorsed by the governmental delegations of the Russian Federation and the Latvian Republic headed by Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar and Latvian Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis.

The documents were prepared by Russian and Latvian experts as a supplement to the intergovernmental agreement on the principles of trade and economic cooperation signed early in December 1991. The agreement envisaged settlements for the reciprocal supplies of products and the provision of services at world prices using the clearing system. However, in January the sides reached an accord to defer the transition to world prices for a quarter.

Godmanis told journalists supplies of some types of products dropped by 50 percent over last year's level. The Latvian side, in part, is not satisfied with the amount of fuel to be delivered from Russia. Therefore, the republic will look for alternative sources of supplies.

The ITAR-TASS correspondent was told in the embassy of the Estonian Republic in Moscow that similar lists should be endorsed by the Russian and Estonian delegations this week.

Latvia Competing for Foreign Investment

LD2602092292 Moscow TASS in English 0755 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow February 26 TASS—Russia and Latvia are struggling for foreign investments to overhaul their economies suffering from severe shortages of food, power and goods, the newspaper PRAVDA said.

The policy of partnership between the two republics is being replaced by competition instigated by liberalisation of prices, privatisation and the Baltic states' decision to introduce their own currencies.

Latvia will sell Russia 22.5 million U.S. dollars' worth of food in the first quarter of 1992, while Russia will be able to supply Latvia with only 20 percent of Latvia's need in petrol, 40 percent in black oil and 10 percent in diesel fuel.

"Economically more powerful Russia will influence the economic development of relatively weak Baltic states in accordance with its interests," the newspaper said.

Kozyrev Plans To Preserve 'Positive' Diplomacy

OW2502175992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1420 GMT 25 Feb 92

[From "Diplomatic Panorama"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Monday [24 February] Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev conferred with leaders of Russia's news media. The meeting was attended by Vyacheslav Terekhov, deputy director general of the news agency "INTERFAX".

CONCERNING FRIENDLY AND ALLIED RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.

In the early stages of his work as Russia's Foreign Minister A. Kozyrev believed that his top priority was to maintain diplomatic relations with all countries, despite the breakup of the USSR. According to him, "diplomatic relations must not depend on political system". "The former USSR made great mistakes when it severed diplomatic ties with one country or another in answer to political changes in it". The Foreign Minister pointed to the breakup of diplomatic relations with Israel in 1967 as an example.

It was also essential to preserve everything positive Soviet diplomacy had achieved, said A. Kozyrev. This relates above all to the Gorbachev-Shevardnadze policy of new thinking which made it possible to give up the severe confrontation with the U.S. and with the West as a whole, and pass to "cautious partnership".

"Our task today is to go farther and pass from partnership to friendliness and subsequently to allied relations with the U.S., with all NATO countries and other industrialized democracies", said A. Kozyrev. According to him, success in this area will depend largely on the effectuation of political and economic reforms within Russia.

SAFEGUARD ALL THAT ENSURES CLOSER TIES WITH CIS MEMBERS.

With reference to Russia's relations with CIS countries A. Kozyrev pointed to the need to "safeguard all that ensures closer ties in the Commonwealth: unified army, unified control over nuclear arms, cooperation mechanisms". Russia does everything it can to secure this, he said.

The main problem in the East is relations with Japan. A. Kozyrev called for resolving problems accumulated in the eastern direction of Russia's foreign policy. He qualified the absence of a peace treaty with Japan as the main problem in that area. Russia's Foreign Minister called for working out, with assistance from Russia's political and public circles, a concept for developing relations with Japan and other countries. In view of this to define Russia's national interests is extremely important, the Foreign Minister said.

GREAT IMPORTANCE OF THE CSCE MISSION TO NAGORNO-KARABAKH.

A. Kozyrev called for using CIS troops as a peacekeeping force in the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh. "When taking decisions we try to use U.N. experience to prevent these troops from being considered as intervention forces", he said. Their function is to disengage the conflicting sides, as it will happen in Yugoslavia soon.

According to A. Kozyrev, the fact that all sides recognized the endeavors to involve CSCE and U.N. mechanisms in the process of settlement as desirable is a crucial aspect of the communique signed during the talks between Armenia and Azerbaijan held in Moscow recently with Russia's mediation. In this connection the Foreign Minister referred to the decision to despatch a mission of CSCE observers to Nagorno-Karabakh taken in Prague. The report the mission is writing now might play an important role, since every side involved in the conflict "seeks to uphold its own prestige". Russia takes no part in this process to avoid being viewed as an "interested", not as a neutral, party.

RUSSIA HAS NOT TURNED AWAY FROM SERBIA.

The recognition of Slovenia's and Croatia's independence is "balanced by very close contacts with Serbia and with Yugoslavia as a whole", said A.Kozyrev. This step does not mean that Russia "turned away from Serbia and those republics (one or two) that wish to preserve the Yugoslav federation. According to A. Kozyrev, Russia isn't breaking diplomatic relations with the latter.

Rivalry with Turkey must be replaced by interaction. A. Kozyrev called for preventing "the traditional rivalry between Russia and Turkey" in Islamic republics that acquired independence when the USSR broke up from turning into something worse". According to him, the rivalry should be replaced by interaction. The bilateral treaty Russia and Turkey initialled recently creates good preconditions for this, said A. Kozyrev.

CONCERNING HIS TOUR OF AFRICA BEGINNING TOMORROW.

One of its goals is to establish diplomatic relations with South Africa. "We realize that South Africa is an unusual

country. Even though President de Klerk launched democratic reforms, they have not been accomplished yet. Establishing relations with the South Africans, we expect that their reforms will be continued", the Foreign Minister said. "In the course of my tour I'll find an opportunity to tactfully make it clear that racial discrimination continuing in South Africa is unacceptable", A. Kozyrev said. "I think that our arrival will help de Klerk overcome the current onset of rightwing forces", he added.

"South Africa is our natural partner, beginning with uranium and ending with diamonds", the Foreign Minister said. "I am sure that my visit to that country will be followed by economic contacts. But it doesn't mean that we are going to South Africa to ask for aid. That would be too much".

"During my tour I'll meet with Nelson Mandela too, of course", A. Kozyrev said.

With reference to his trip to Angola he reminded those present that, along with the U.S. and Portugal, the former USSR made an important contribution to the process of settlement in that country. "This is a continuation of our global role", A. Kozyrev stressed, even though, according to him, he dislikes the "superpower" notion. "Nevertheless it applies, considering our responsibility to the world", he said. Besides having talks with Angolan officials, he will confer with the UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi.

Kozyrev will also visit Egypt. According to him, "it's one of the most important and industrialized countries in North Africa and the Middle East". "We'll attempt to assume the responsibility for establishing peace in the region the USSR used to bear", he said.

Concerning some personnel problems he is seeking to involve young people and "old officials who can be trusted" to form his "team". At the same time the Foreign Minister believes that the Foreign Ministry's "professional backbone" should be preserved.

It's time for a personnel reshuffle in the ministry and embassies, A. Kozyrev said. "We'll start with the top, since this is where spoilage begins". He made it clear that none of the former USSR deputy foreign ministers will retain his job.

Churkin Briefs on Kozyrev's Africa Tour

LD2602081492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1725 GMT 24 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Sergey Staroselskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 24 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—Vitaliy Churkin, chief of the Russian Foreign Ministry's information directorate, gave a briefing today and said that Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev will visit Angola, South Africa, and Egypt 26 February-1 March.

A conversation is expected with Angolan President Eduard dos Santos on two complex problems: The process of a settlement in that country based on agreements signed on 1 June 1991 with the active participation of the United States and the Soviet Union—the successor of which is Russia in the international arena—and bilateral Russian-Angolan relations.

Vitaliy Churkin noted that problems of normalizing bilateral Russian-South African relations and questions of bilateral cooperation, particularly in the economic sphere, will be discussed in South Africa.

The final stage in Andrey Kozyrev's trip to a number of African countries, the Russian Foreign Ministry representative said, will be a brief working visit to Egypt, where, as is planned, he will meet with that country's president and foreign minister. An exchange of views on questions connected with a Near East settlement will be continued during those conversations. Great attention will be paid to the state of and prospects for Russian-Egyptian relations in various spheres.

Answering journalists' questions about Andrey Kozyrev's forthcoming trip, Vitaliy Churkin stressed that there is considerable potential for economic cooperation between Russia and South Africa. Highly placed official representatives, who in southern Africa have to discuss the concrete details of this cooperation, will be included in the delegation.

[Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian at 1600 GMT on 24 February adds: "Ways in which Angola can repay its foreign debt to Russia will be discussed during Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's visit to Angola 26-27 February. INTERFAX, citing information received in the Russian Foreign Ministry's department for African countries, reports that Angola's debt comes to between two and three billion currency rubles. The Russian side may propose to Angola that it should use a part of its debts as Russia's contribution to capital for future joint enterprises in the country. Some of the goods will be exported to Russia as compensation for the debts."]

Negotiations Will Not 'Be Easy'

MB2602115492 Moscow Radio Moscow in Afrikaans 1700 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Commentary by Vladislav Chernukka]

[Text] From 26 February to 1 March Andrey Kozyrev will visit Angola, South Africa and Egypt.

The question of a peace settlement in the country and bilateral ties will be the main focus in Angola. The former Soviet Union has rendered substantial support during the 15 years of Angola's independence. The biggest part of this assistance has been of a military nature and was used by the Angolan Government in its fight against UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola].

Now that the peace process in Angola is underway, and the Soviet Union has been superceded by Russia, relevant adjustments have to be made in the country's bilateral relations. Angola's military debt to the Soviet Union is but one of the important issues. One can thus visualize that Andrey Kozyrev's negotiations in Luanda are not going to be easy. Nevertheless, the peace process in Angola will still be the focus of attention, and that is quite understandable since Moscow, jointly with Lisbon and Washington, have contributed substantially toward ending the Angolan civil war.

The main themes under discussion in South Africa will be the normalization of ties and the initiating of far-reaching economic cooperation. Relations between Pretoria and Moscow have started to thaw since President F.W. de Klerk's government began to dismantle apartheid in an effort to create a genuinely democratic society. In November of last year, consular ties between Pretoria and Moscow were resuscitated. Word had it that ambassadorial ties would also be resumed after President de Klerk's visit to Moscow in December, but due to an unfavorable climate in the USSR at the time, the trip was cancelled.

The possibility has not been ruled out that the problem will not be solved during discussions between the Russian minister, President de Klerk, and other South African leaders. The fact that ample attention will be given to economic cooperation is not at all surprising. Economic ties between these two countries are currently in an embryonic stage, and that is to be understood. Before the De Klerk reform initiatives, Moscow was imposing a strict boycott on South Africa, while the anti-apartheid movement under the leadership of the African National Congress [ANC] was enjoying its support. By the way, during the course of his visit to South Africa, the Russian minister will also hold talks with the president of the ANC, Mr. Nelson Mandela.

Regarding Mr. Kozyrev's visit to Egypt, bilateral relations will dominate the talks. Amendments to policy will be essential due to the disappearance of the USSR and the abdication of its commitments to Russia. Another important theme in Cairo will be the Middle East settlement process. This is all the more important because Moscow is energetically participating in the world community's efforts to solve the area's problems.

Popov in Vienna Warns of 'Red-Brown Bloc'

AU2502103292 Vienna NEUE KRONEN-ZEITUNG in German 25 Feb 92 p 2

[Report by Claus Pandi: "Red-Brown Bloc Is the Biggest Danger for Russia"]

[Text] Yesterday, one day after the old communists held a demonstration in Moscow and were dispersed by the militia with clubs, Moscow's Mayor Popov, Yeltsin's loyal but also critical fellow fighter, paid a visit to Vienna. NEUE KRONEN-ZEITUNG journalist Claus Pandi spoke with Mayor Gavriil Popov about new dangers and about Russia's economic future.

Popov said on:

—The danger posed by anti-democrats:

"The communists per se are not really dangerous. However, they do pose some danger, especially if they ally themselves with the brown forces, with the national socialists, with the national patriots—that is, with all those whom we call the red-brown bloc. The red-brown bloc is the biggest danger for Russia."

—The development of democracy:

"If the democrats make mistakes, these red and brown groups will easily be able to unite. At the moment such a process of unification is taking place between national socialists and neo-communists. The extent to which this movement will develop depends on the extent to which the democrats develop."

—The demonstration of the old communists: "On 23 February it was shown that the number of those who participate in such demonstrations is shrinking. I think that in this respect we managed to get over the past Sunday victoriously. Of course, one must not underestimate this danger in any way."

—Reforms and privatization:

"Yeltsin is the right man for implementing the democratic and economic reforms. Yeltsin's first reform program was only a price regulation. I have urged for the acceleration of privatization and agriculture reforms, too. Yeltsin has supported us very earnestly. However, this conflict has not yet been settled, because the Russian parliament is threatening to suspend Yeltsin's orders."

—Russia's prospects for the future:

"Of course, it is possible that the situation will deteriorate even further. Now everything is very difficult for us, but we have opportunities and prospects. It is easier to bear these difficulties if one can sense a certain progress."

—Cooperation with Austria:

"We have a great number of joint projects. Currently, 30 Austrian companies are working in Moscow. We want to discuss everything once again, from the viewpoint that privatization is to be implemented even more quickly in Moscow."

Shakray Comments on Policy Toward Ukraine

92P50097A Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Feb 92 p 1

[Unattributed item: "Better To Yield in Something, But Not Exert Pressure"]

[Text] "The meeting yielded positive results." This is how Sergey Shakray evaluated the conference in Minsk at a meeting with people's deputies. But here he also noted that contradictions in the Commonwealth of Independent States will remain, and that Russia intends to resolve them only through negotiations and agreements.

Responding to the deputies' question on differences with the Ukraine, Sergey Shakray noted that now, in his opinion, it is better to suffer and yield in something, but not exert pressure; the Ukraine could still get burned on the coupons, as well as the exorbitant expenditures for its own armed forces, and ultimately conclude that close cooperation with Russia is necessary.

'Private Enterprise' on Moscow Seminar Agenda

LD2502140192 Moscow TASS in English 1438 GMT 24 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Vinitskaya]

[Text] Moscow February 24—Participants in the Russo-American business seminar that opened in the Republican Parliamentary Centre on Monday [24 February] intend to promote the development of private business in Russia. The seminar was organised by the Russian Confederation of Unions of Entrepreneurs and the Heritage Foundation of the U.S. that deals with problems of free market.

Inaugurating the seminar, Vladimir Shumeyko, deputy chairman of the Russian parliament, said the reforms in Russia are, regrettably, hindered by the fact that there are too few entrepreneurs in Russia. He said that heads of enterprises who were molded by planning, centralised, command economy, quite often lack the knowledge of the market economy and do not know what initial steps should be taken. He expressed the hope that the seminar will give a fresh impetus to the development of private enterprise in Russia.

During the four days of the seminar reports will be delivered by prominent experts of the foundation Edwin Feulner, Burton Pines, Dan Mitchell, Nancy Bord, Tom Humbert. They will describe the tax system in conditions of the market economy, speak about how companies are founded and managed, financial organisations are developed and foreign investments attracted, and will analyse the lobbyist and legislative activity in the U.S.

Bilateral Space Cooperation Discussed With U.S.

LD2502115692 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1810 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Commentary by Vladislav Kozyakov]

[Text] Russian and American aerospace officials appeared together at last week's Senate subcommittee hearings in Washington on bilateral space cooperation.

One of the projects under discussion was the possibility of using Russian-built Soyuz spacecraft as a rescue ship for the U.S. space station Freedom in emergency. The idea, put forth by the General Director and chief designer of the Energiya scientific and industrial complex, Mr. Yuriy Simenov, was supported by Mr. Richard Truly, head of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. He said NASA is most interested in exploring the possibility of adapting the Soyuz spacecraft for use as an emergency crew rescue vehicle for the U.S. Freedom space station.

Other proposals by Russia include renting a part of the Mir station for US experiments, the purchase of [?an] Energiya booster, and an exchange of astronauts for flights aboard the Mir station and American Shuttle space ships.

Another exciting proposal is for a platform to be mounted jointly in space with the help of more powerful RD 170 rocket engine. Such a platform could be equipped with mirrors to divert radiation away from the earth and move sunlight to it. It also could be used to clean up space debris and even to reconstruct the ozone layer.

Mr. Simenov believes that Russia and the United States could join forces to implement the boldest projects and that citizens of the two countries would be the first to jointly step on Mars.

For his part, Mr. Truly spoke of NASA's interest in a number of Russian technologies, such as unmanned docking of spacecrafts, rocket engines, and small-size space-related nuclear reactors.

The agenda of Senate hearings also included the question of using the two countries' satellites as part of a worldwide anti-missile system, following a recent agreement reached in Moscow between the Russian President Boris Yeltsin and the American Secretary of State James Baker. As an initial step in creating a global ABM system the agreement played a crucial role in creating an atmosphere of openness in discussing the issues of joint space exploration.

NASA is expected to send a team of experts to Russia for technical assessment of the proposals and projects on offer.

Russian-American rapprochement has led both to a better international environment and to the opening of new opportunities for joint space exploration.

Commentary on History of Chinese Border Accord

OW2002040192 Moscow Radio Moscow in Mandarin 1000 GMT 19 Feb 92

[From the "Good Neighborly Contact" program]

[Text] Listeners and friends. The Russian Supreme Soviet has ratified the border agreement on the eastern sector of the boundary between the Soviet Union and China. The following is a commentary by our station commentator Alekseyev:

First of all, I must clearly define a political issue. The Soviet Union as a state is no longer in existence; however, the document approved by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet is still called the Soviet-Chinese border agreement. Why is this so? It is because this agreement was signed on 16 May 1991, and the Soviet Union was still in existence then. According to international practice, approval of all treaties and agreements between states by the parliament should be based on the names used at the time of signing. Of course, it also depends on whether these treaties and agreements are in conflict with the new political realities. The Soviet-Chinese border agreement has definitely not given rise to any contradictions, and the original eastern sector of the Soviet-Chinese border has now become the Russian-Chinese border with a total length of 4,300 km. That is to say, the border agreement ratified by the Russian parliament signifies that the principal problems surrounding the Russian-Chinese borders have basically been resolved. I say they have basically been resolved because the existing problem of three islands—two in the Chabarovsk area along the Amur River, and one along the upper reaches of the Argun River—has not yet been resolved. Nevertheless, both sides believe that this should not become an obstacle to bringing the agreement on the eastern sector of the Soviet-Chinese, and the current Russian-Chinese border to a conclusion. Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev said the coming into effect of this agreement is a major event in the relations between Russia and China. It should be noted that the border issues handed down from the past have all along been regarded as especially complicated. Efforts were made in the 1960's and 1970's to tackle these problems, but to no avail at all. As a result, Soviet-Chinese relations at that time became very tense. Only in 1987 when the relations between Moscow and Beijing were almost fully normalized was an agreement reached with a mutually acceptable solution during the renewed rounds of talks.

I would also like to point out that the approval of the Soviet-Chinese border agreement by the Russian parliament clearly proves that the Russian Federation abides by the declaration that it will observe international obligations committed by the former Soviet Union. As China has adopted a similar stand, it has created a reliable foundation for further strengthening the neighborly relations between Russia and China.

Yakut Stock Company Seeks Japanese Partners

LD2502143192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0756 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, 25 Feb (TASS)—The "Bayylyat" state joint stock company for the support of entrepreneurial activity and small business, recently set up in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutiya), is promising Japanese businessmen access to the riches of felling and mining timber, coal, gas, diamonds, and other valuable minerals. At its request, the Russian trade mission in Tokyo has now begun a search for partners to carry out joint projects.

As was reported to the ITAR-TASS correspondent in trade mission circles, the "Bayylyat" company was set up in Yakutiya on the initiative of the republic's government and with the participation of commercial banks, insurance companies, etc. Japanese business circles and in particular the Association of Japano-Russian Trade, which unites a number of small and medium-sized firms, have shown great interest in participating in the mining of Yakut diamonds—aimed at selling them partly on the local market.

Kuril Islands 'Fate' Rests With People

PM2502115792 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Feb 92 p 3

[Article by Vice Admiral of the Reserve Yu. Bystrov under the "Problems and Opinions" rubric: "Islands of Contention"]

[Excerpts] The problem of the South Kurils—Japan is claiming four of the islands—is more than just a controversial issue in Russian foreign policy. This subject is continuing to worry our readers too. Today we are publishing excerpts from several letters, as well as the opinion of Vice Admiral of the Reserve Yu. Bystrov, member of the Soviet "Peace to the Oceans" Committee Presidium Bureau. [passage omitted]

In 1951, Washington drew up a draft peace treaty with Japan. It pointed out in particular that Japan was renouncing all rights to the Kuril Islands. The peace treaty was signed by 49 states 8 September 1951. But the USSR's signature was not on it. The "cold war" was raging throughout the world; it evolved into a "hot" war in Korea. Moscow scorned an excellent opportunity to legalize the results of the war in the Far East and declined to sign the treaty. It was only in 1956 that the USSR embarked on talks on concluding a peace treaty. A joint Soviet-Japanese declaration was signed in which the USSR committed itself to transfer Habomai and Shikotan to Japan on condition that a peace treaty was signed.

However, the talks soon reached deadlock. Following the conclusion of the new U.S.-Japanese treaty on security, the situation became even more complex. After all, the USSR was demanding the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Japanese territory. It is known that U.S. troops remain in this country to this day. However, be that as it may, the USSR's statement on returning the islands of Habomai and Shikotan to Japan remains in force. This was confirmed in recent weeks by Russian Foreign Ministry leaders.

The sides have now started to approach the solution of the "Kuril problem" in real earnest. However, passions around the South Kurils have been artificially fanned recently by certain groups of people both in Japan and in Russia. Myths are being dredged up about their being "Russian" or "Japanese" since time immemorial, and both governments are being presented with ultimatums. It was no mere chance that Russian President B. Yeltsin

appealed to the Russians to refrain from expressing extremist views and to adopt measures to raise the level and expand the volume of Soviet-Japanese relations.

The time has come for considered and competent analysis rather than emotion. The general public should first and foremost be made aware of historical facts and diplomatic documents determining mutual relations with Japan, rather than the views of various figures.

This is important, since the final decision on the fate of the Kurils must without fail be made and approved by the people. And primarily by those who live on the Kurils. Furthermore, they should express their agreement or disagreement only on the basis of profound understanding of the essence of the problem.

Oil Deliveries to DPRK Shrink

LD2402101292 Moscow TASS in English 0801 GMT 24 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Golovnin]

[Text] Tokyo February 24 TASS—Oil deliveries from Russia to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) have dwindled and now account for not more than one-tenth of the rate of supply in previous years when oil was exported to North Korea at extremely cheap prices in rubles, Kim Jong-u, DPRK's deputy minister for foreign economic relations, told Japanese journalists in Pyongyang on Sunday [23 February].

He made it clear that North Korea would overcome the "temporary difficulties" by launching a massive campaign to save energy, look for alternative sources of oil and more widely utilise coal, although, according to Japanese estimates, the downturn in imports from Russia has already dealt a painful blow on the North Korean ecnomy.

Prior to 1990, North Korea, according to Japanese data, used to receive 700-800 tonnes of oil from the Soviet Union every year for symbolic sums of money in rubles, which was virtually a form of economic aid. Thus-oriented trade with the Soviet Union accounted for more than a half of Pyongyang's export-import operations.

Since last year, however, the scope of Russian export sharply diminished because Moscow demanded switching over to settlements in hard currency. The result of the contraction of the delivery of cheap oil, according to the Japanese Association for the Promotion of Foreign Trade, is that many industrial enterprises in North Korea operate at half capacity.

There is also unconfirmed information that a majority of industrial facilities, with the exception of defence plants, have been brought to a standstill in North Korea while the fishing fleet experiences great difficulties because of a shortage of fuel.

Pyongyang's position is further aggravated by the fact that China—its second important economic partner and provider of oil—has also switched bilateral contacts over to settlements in convertible currency.

German Aid Shipment Arrives in Kaliningrad

PM2502165492 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 4

[Report by Vladimir Polishchuk: "Bundeswehr Brings Aid to Former Koenigsberg"]

[Text] Kaliningrad—Three Bundeswehr aircraft have delivered 23 tonnes of humanitarian freight from Germany to Khrabrovo Airport in a suburb of Kaliningrad for the local hospitals. The freight was accompanied by a delegation headed by Bundestag Deputy Ottfried Hennig, parliamentary state secretary to the Federal Defense Ministry.

The delegation head expressed his appreciation to the local authorities for the fact that, 47 years after his involuntary departure from Koenigsberg (as a seven-year-old on 23 January 1945), he has been able to visit once again the land of his forefathers (incidentally, Ottfried Hennig visited the house where he lived as a child).

The guests from Germany visited the city of Baltiysk (formerly the naval base of Pillau), which is closed to foreigners, where Vice Admiral V. Litvinov, commander of a squadron of surface ships, showed the guests the antisubmarine ship Admiral Panteleyev.

Federation Affairs

Yeltsin, Rutskoy Economic Talks 'Constructive'

OW2502202692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1900 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy met for two hours Tuesday [25 February] evening. According to reliable sources,they discussed the development of a Russian agricultural industrial complex and the Vice President's participation in solving other economic problems.

The meeting was held in a constructive atmosphere. A document outlining the new powers of the Vice President is expected to be issued by the end of the week.

Yeltsin Meets With Parliament Committee Leaders

LD2502123392 Moscow TASS in English 1208 GMT 25 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow February 25 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation has met in the Kremlin today with the chairmen of the parliament's committees and commissions to discuss interaction

between the executive and the legislative branches of power in implementing reforms.

Yeltsin is also expected to discuss with parliament's leaders reform modifications which do not affect their nature.

Urges Laws To Help Reform

LD2502185992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 25 Feb 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] President Yeltsin discussed domestic matters with the chairmen of the committees and commissions of Russia's Supreme Soviet. The meeting concentrated on issues of cooperation between the executive and the legislature. The president voiced anxiety at the delays in reform in the regions, and he drew the parliamentarians' attention to the need to adopt a number of legislative acts that would help the reforms to make progress.

Politics Dependent on Economy

LD2502185392 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1747 GMT 25 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—A change for the better in the political situation cannot be expected without an improvement in the economic position. Russian President Boris Yeltsin made this statement at a meeting in the Kremlin today with the chairmen of the committees and commissions of the Supreme Soviet.

Vyacheslav Bragin, chairman of the parliamentary committee for the mass media, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent that "the president is concerned with the seriousness of the economic situation, mainly in connection with the fact that social security measures are lagging behind the specific needs of the people." Boris Yeltsin told the meeting that 18 percent of the people are below the poverty line and another 30 percent are approaching that point.

Analyzing the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, the president called it very grave. The question of withdrawing Army units from there, in his view, is an urgent problem.

There was also an analysis of relations between Russia and Ukraine, Moldova, and the Baltic countries, continued Bragin. I got the impression, he said, that the president is confident that by working calmly, without hurrying, the problems that arise can be resolved. At the same time, the president believes that some extreme situations that arise in the Supreme Soviet—for example, the demand for the almost immediate return of the Crimea to Russia—merely inflame passions and complicate the situation.

There was talk at the meeting about the draft new constitution of the Russian Federation. The president stated that he is a supporter of concluding a federal [federativnyy] treaty. In his view, there will not be the conditions at the congress of people's deputies in April for adopting the new constitution.

Yeltsin Says No 'Confrontation'

LD2602115892 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 26 Feb 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast—read by announcer]

[Text] Boris Yeltsin's meeting with leaders of Russian parliamentary factions has just ended in the Kremlin. This meeting is evidently a continuation of the conversation the president had yesterday with chairmen of parliamentary committees and commissions. Yesterday the president rejected the very idea of any confrontation between himself and parliament.

Aide on 25 Feb Meeting

OW2502181392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1640 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lev Sukhanov, an aide to President Boris Yeltsin, has said the Russian leader does not regard current prices as market prices. Commenting on the president's meeting in the Kremlin on Tuesday [25 February] with heads of the parliamentary chambers, committees and commissions, Sukhanov said the parties had not even touched on the issue of freezing prices or wages, since no measures of this kind were planned at all.

According to Sukhanov, Boris Yeltsin briefed the audience on a new tax decree that was now being drafted. He said undue growth of profitability would be made inexpedient through a mechanism of progressive taxation. According to him, bills on concessions and mortgage were ready for parliamentary scrutiny.

L. Sukhanov said President Yeltsin had told the parliamentarians in detail about the outcome of the CIS summit in Minsk earlier this month. He said his several telephone conversations with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk over the past few days had shown "certain positive changes in Russo-Ukrainian relations, although our press tends to overdramatize these relations."

Considerable attention was given during the meeting to relations among the member republics of the Commonwealth. The president spoke out in favor of signing a federal treaty, Sukhanov said.

On the problem of Nagorno-Karabakh Yeltsin said he had agreed with CIS armed forces commander Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov "to withdraw our guys from Nagorno-Karabakh," although this withdrawal promised for varius reasons to be difficult to implement.

The parties, Sukhanov continued, discussed the February 23 incidents. Since the president had specified the places where rallies had to be held, those attempting to go beyond the predesignated localities had been responsible for the street excesses, Sukhanov said. Anyway, he summed up, President Yeltsin was sure that Sunday's incidents had nothing to do with a ban on rallies and demonstrations.

(For more detailed information about Yeltsin's meeting with parliamentarians see Wednesday's PRESIDENTIAL BULLETIN.)

Yeltsin Signs Decree for Economic Reform Fund

OW2502202792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1900 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree Tuesday [25 February] on the establishment of an international fund for the support of economic reform in Russia. The fund is a non-government organization. The new fund will assist the government of the Russian Federation, the Council of Ministers of Russian Federation Republics, and executive power branches in areas "lacking economic, scientific, and technical reform and the formation of market relations".

The fund's purpose is to reconstruct Russian farming and turn agriculture into a high profit venture. Other areas of the fund's activity will be social welfare and support of servicemen laid off from the Armed Forces.

Decree Establishes Intellectual Property Agency

LD2602111992 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1703 GMT 25 Feb 92

["Decree of the President of the Russian Federation on the Russian Intellectual Property Agency Under the President of the Russian Federation"]

[Text] [No dateline as received]—In connection with the cessation of the activities of the state bodies of the USSR and with the aim of creating favorable conditions for guaranteeing copyright and related rights in the Russian Federation and beyond its borders, I resolve:

1. To form a Russian Intellectual Property Agency [Rossiyskoye Agentstvo Intellektualnoy Sobstvennosti] under the president of the Russian Federation on the basis of the USSR State Agency for Copyright and Related Rights, which has been abolished.

The Russian Intellectual Property Agency under the president of the Russian Federation will develop proposals and implement state policy in the area of legal protection for creative activities in literature, the arts, science, or any other intellectual pursuit.

2. To appoint Mikhail A. Fedotov as director of the Russian Intellectual Property Agency under the president of the Russian Federation.

To submit the statute on the Russian Intellectual Property Agency under the president of the Russian Federation for the approval of Mikhail A. Fedotov in one month.

3. That the government of the Russian Federation will ensure the transfer to the Russian Intellectual Property Agency under the president of the Russian Federation those enterprises, organizations, institutions, buildings, premises, assets, financial funds, or other property situated on the territory of the Russian Federation and beyond the borders of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States which until 1 January 1992 came under the jurisdiction of the USSR State Agency for Copyright and Related Rights.

[Signed] Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation

[Dated] Kremlin, Moscow, 24 February 1992

Rutskoy Spokesman: Coup Report 'Inaccurate'

OW2502174692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1350 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Vice President's press spokesman Nikolay Gulbinskiy has described as "inaccurate" the reports by a number of mass media that Aleksandr Rutskoy told the Spanish newspaper LA VANGUARDIA that he would like the investigation of last August coup d'etat to be halted. Commenting on these reports at IF's [INTERFAX] request, Gulbinskiy said that "certain meaningful statements" made by the vice-president were missing. He noted that A. Rutskoy had called for "the early and mandatory publication of all the documents throwing light on the activities of the State of Emergency Committee," and had insisted that the putschists "should be held responsible for what they have done." True, he had not demanded that the punishment should be too severe, since "these people have already suffered a lot morally." Gulbinskiy quoted Rutskoy as saying that "I'd even set them free if we do mean to make a turn towards civilized practices. After all, they are elderly people with families, and by releasing them we'd first and foremost show mercy to their children." According to his press secretary, the vice-president does not think vindictiveness can do credit to any civilized society.

Gaydar Reportedly Requested Ministry's Division

OW2402184392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1630 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Sources at the office of Vice-Premier Yegor Gaydar have said President Yeltsin's decision to divide the Finance and Economics Ministry by no means spells a motion of no confidence in the Vice-Premier.

"It is very difficult to manage the economy and finances at the same time. The President simply decided to ease the strain on Gaydar", the source said. He added that the idea of dividing the ministry was put forward by Gaydar himself. The Vice-Premier also suggested appointing as Economics Minister his first deputy Andrey Nechayev, a man close to Gaydar intellectually and biographically.

Gaydar's office also said that finances were the most important and difficult problem at the current stage of reforms. For that reason Gaydar chose to retain that post.

Gaydar, Khlystun Hold Meeting With Scientists

LD2602093792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Yegor Gaydar, first deputy head of the Russian Government, held a meeting with prominent scientists about agricultural reform. Halting the reform would mean its collapse and a final blow to the Russian countryside. The fate of collective and state farms must be decided through the voice of every peasant, rather than through direct voting at meetings. It was suggested that material resource and equipment problems should be solved through directed credits. Russian Agriculture Minister Vladimir Khlystun underlined that half of all tractors produced in 1992 will be transferred to farmers. The pressing problem of [word indistinct] prices on agricultural and industrial output and ways to solve it were also discussed.

Officials Discuss Security Ministry's Future

OW2502163592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1350 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A republic-wide conference of regional security service heads opened in Moscow on Tuesday [25 February] to discuss the future of Russia's Security Ministry.

According to the ministry's PR [public relations] center, the conference involves Vice-Premier Gennadiy Burbulis, deputy head of parliament Sergey Filatov, Interior Minister Viktor Yerin, and the chief of external intelligence Yevgeniy Primakov.

Discussion Issues Detailed

LD2502132292 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1145 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow, 25 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—Issues of counterespionage under contemporary conditions, the battle against terrorism, corruption and smuggling, guaranteeing economic security, and other problems connected with the protection of the interests of Russian society and the rights and freedoms of citizens will be discussed during the all-Russian meeting of the leading personnel of the bodies of the Ministry of Security of Russia which opened in Moscow today. This is reported by the ministry's public relations center.

Major General Anatoliy Oleynikov, first deputy security minister, reported on the main trends in the activities of the security bodies. Russian Deputy Prime Minister Gennadiy Burbulis is taking part in the meeting.

Security Minister Cited

OW2602014592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1900 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Minister of Security of Russia, Chairman of the parliamentary committee on defence and security Sergey Stepashin didn't give the details of the expanded session of the Ministry of Security Tuesday [25 February]. First Deputy Premier Gennadiy Burbulis and Deputy Chairman of Parliament Sergey Filatov spoke at the meeting.

Stepanshin said that a special deputy committee began to fulfill its parliamentary task; by July 1 it must present its ideas on the activities of the security and external intelligence organs and on the establishment of parliamentary control of their activities.

In early March the Supreme Soviet will review a rider to the law on the status of people's deputies which will legally establish the responsibility of parliamentarians for the exposure of state secrets. Then 2 or 3 members of the parliamentary committee will receive access to highly secret documents of the Ministry of Security and the external intelligence service.

Pastukhin Appointed Deputy Foreign Minister

OW2502153092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1350 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Boris Yeltsin has relieved Boris Pastukhov of his duties as Russia's ambassador to Afghanistan and appointed him Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation.

A government resolution signed by First Vice-Premier Gennadiy Burbulis appoints Ovsey Shkaratan to the post of an adviser to the Russian government.

Deputy Foreign Minister Profiled

OW2502175792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1420 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Under President Yeltsin's decree 59-year-old Boris Nikolayevich Pastukhov has been appointed Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister. According to reports from the ministry, he'll be responsible for administrative and economic affairs. In the Soviet Foreign Ministry this job belonged to the former Deputy Minister Boris Chaplin.

Having been elected chief of the YCL [Young Communist League] in 1982, B. Pastukhov played a noticeable role in the political life of the former USSR. Later he joined the diplomatic service. In 1986 he was appointed the USSR Ambassador to Denmark. Since 1989 he served as the USSR and then Russia's Ambassador in Afghanistan. The withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan was carried out when B. Pastukhov led the USSR Embassy in that country.

New Culture Minister Makes Program Public

LD2602114192 Moscow TASS in English 1543 GMT 25 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Olga Svistunva and Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow February 25 TASS—"It is necessary that Russian President Boris Yeltsin signs in the near future a decree on the protection of culture under market conditions," Russian Minister of Culture Yevgeniy Sidorov told a news conference at the Russian Government's building today.

This is the first time Sidorov meets correspondents as the culture minister to make public his program.

Sidorov plans active participation of his ministry in the elaboration and fulfilment of the state cultural policy, salvation and protection of the cultural heritage from destruction and robbery, as well as elaboration and fulfilment of regional programs of revival of the Russian province's cultural traditions, without which, in the minister's opinion, "the general improvement of Russian culture is impossible".

Sidorov called for the soonest adoption of a Russian law on the copyright, art exports and imports, museums and national libraries.

The ministry intends to involve in social protection of cultural workers under conditions of the economic reform and support the creative elite. He said the Russian president will soon sign a decree on the increase, up to the level used in the education and health care spheres, of salaries to cultural workers.

The minister said the program's fulfilment can begin within two or three years if financial, political and personnel conditions are favourable.

"I shall do everything to make the government understand we need men of culture no less than businessmen, and no economic reforms are possible without culture," said Sidorov, who has been the rector of Literature Institute. The minister said he intends to continue teaching.

Further Reportage on Armed Forces Day Events

Public Order Chief Cited

PM2502151792 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Feb 92 p 2

[Russian Federation Ministry of Internal Affairs Public Relations Center report citing remarks by Major General of the Militia V. Ogorodnikov, chief of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs Administration for the Maintenance of Public Order: "Dangerous To Hold Rally"]

[Text] The militia's actions during yesterday's rallies were discussed by Major General of the Militia V. Ogorodnikov, chief of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs Administration for the Maintenance of Public Order:

"Since the leaders of parties and movements insisted on holding a rally in Manezh Square, Internal Affairs organs cut off this square and Mayakovskiy Square. People started gathering on Mayakovskiy Square from 0900. By 1030 there were around 7,000 of them. Some of them, pushing aside the trucks blocking Tverskaya Street, broke through the first militia cordon, but were then halted by militia backup. The rally, attended by around 2,000 people, was held there, outside the 'Minsk' Hotel. The speakers called for a march to Manezh Square. Around 200 people from the Crimea Bridge then headed for the city center, but there too militiamen turned them back to the square by the entrance to the Central Park of Culture and Leisure.

"There was virtually nobody outside the Television Center, and it was only at 1400 that people started arriving in Commune Square. Moreover, a small rally (around 100 people) was held in Pushkin Square. Around 2,000 people gathered outside the country's main library. In all, our officers estimate that approximately 15,000 people took part in the rallies. But these are provisional figures.

"Around 10,000 militiamen were involved in these events. After all, on the basis of initial statements around 400,000 people had been expected to take part. Seventeen Moscow militiamen were injured."

Press Briefings Held

LD2502200892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 25 Feb 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Regarding the clashes on 23 February between police and demonstrators Ponomarev, the Moscow procurator, said at a news conference today that his office has

instituted criminal proceedings based on the article on resistance to members of the militia. Ponomarev stressed that during the course of the investigation the legal nature of the actions of the law-enforcement forces will also be checked out. According to him, the lawful nature of the decisions which caused the militia to clash with the people will be subjected to analysis. And this is what was said at another news conference about these same events.

[Correspondent I.Pankov] Journalists were first shown a 15- minute video recording of the events on the central streets of Moscow and the accounts of two members of the militia. In the opinion of the latter, they had never before clashed with such aggressive demonstrators, especially among middle-aged people. Going back to the events preceding 23 February, members of the Moscow government recalled that, to avoid conflicts between various groupings, permission was not given to hold rallies on Manezh Square and Mayakovskiy Square. Four areas in various parts of the city were provided for holding rallies.

An erroneous report on the first program of the radio bewildered some people. It said that the rally had been permitted in Mayakovskiy square. In connection with this, the Russian Government has set up a commission of inquiry. It was stressed at the news conference that the provocative calls of the organizers of the rally had contributed to the increase in tension. This did, in the final analysis, lead to a clash with the militia and OMON [special purpose militia detachment] units.

According to various assessments, from 100 to 500,000 people took part in the demonstration. In turn, 12,000 militia and an interior troops unit in reserve were brought in to maintain order. Newsmen were shown a list of 21 militiamen who were hurt. None of them was sent to hospital. According to the information of the Moscow government, eight participants in the rally were given medical aid. At the same time, it was plainly stated at the news conference that the death of Nikolay Peskov, who had suffered from a weak heart, was in no way linked with the clashes in the streets. There was one witness whom Peskov turned to for assistance in the subway in the morning.

Among the journalists' questions was this: Does not Arkadiy Murashov, chief of the Moscow Internal Troops Directorate, intend to resign?

Moscow Deputy Premier Cited

OW2502183692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1640 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Deputy Premier of Moscow Aleksandr Musikantskiy said in a press conference Tuesday [25 February] that the events of February 23 in Moscow showed that the neo-communist forces and the "patriots" have completely exhausted all means of bringing the people over to their side and will now begin open provocation of disorder.

The director of city administrative affairs Vasiliy Shakhnovskiy said that he considers the meetings and disorder connected with them to be a legal element of the development of the political situation in the country where attempts are made to destabilize the situation and disrupt radical economic reforms in the capital.

Shakhnovskiy said that 69 year old retired Lieutenant General Nikolay Peskov died February 23 from heart disease. Shakhnovskiy showed journalists the document presented by paramedics which says that Peskov was rescued by the ambulance in the area of Tverskoy St., 22. Shakhnovskiy says that this indicates that it is not likely that the retired General's death was a result of participation in the disturbances in the center of Moscow. The head of the Moscow Bureau of Internal Affairs Arkadiy Murashev said that 12 thousand policemen were mobilized to maintain order February 23 and thousand servicemen from the Dzerzhinskiy internal forces division were in reserve but did not take any action. According to Murashev the OMON [special purpose militia detachment] units were mobilized only after demonstrators forcibly broke through a chain of unarmed policemen.

By initial data the damages from the manifestation, blockage of transport in the center of the city and broken store windows amounts to nearly 20 million rubles.

Murashev said that the organizers of the manifestations may be held responsible for the damages although there are no norm-legal bases for bringing charges against them.

In reply to a question concerning demonstrations planned for March 17, Murashev stated that the city authorities "will take all possible measures to fulfill their decisions and maintain public order in the city."

Journalists' Questions Unanswered

LD2502202192 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1600 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] A news conference has taken place at the Moscow City Government about the actions of the militia on 23 February.

Twelve thousand staff members of the internal affairs bodies and 4,000 servicemen from the Internal Troops of the Russian Internal Affairs Ministry were enlisted for maintaining public order in Moscow on this day. This was stated by Arkadiy Murashov, chief of the Moscow Internal Affairs Directorate, at a news conference. Twenty-one militiamen were hurt. The material damage inflicted on the internal affairs bodies amounted to some 20 million rubles, he said.

Unfortunately, not many replies were equally to the point. The journalists did not hear about the Muscovites who had been hurt on 23 February, the nature of the

wounds and injuries, or the number of persons who had gone to the city's medical establishments for treatment. Nor did they hear why so many guardians of public order had been deployed that day and what had provoked such harsh actions against the demonstrators.

That is why the Internal Affairs Directorate chief and the representatives of the Government and the Mayoralty of Moscow, Aleksandr Muzykantskiy and Vasiliy Shakhnovksiy, were repeatedly interrupted by journalists with reproaches of incompetence, tendentious presentation of facts, and deviation from proclaimed democratic principles. At the news conference passions sometimes flared up comparable only with those to be found at rallies.

The representatives of the city authorities attempted to convince the journalists that the clashes between the militia and the demonstrators had been clearly provoked and that the participants in the action had been excessively aggressive.

However the question of who bears responsibility for the blood of the wounded and injured Muscovites and militiamen just went unanswered.

[Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1700 GMT on 25 Fenruary, which also reported on this news conference, added: "The Internal Affairs Directorate and the mayor's office accused the participants in the demonstration of provocative actions and aggression and anticipate a possible repetition of these events on 17 March. At the moment it is not known whether this demonstration will be permitted, since both Popov and Luzhkov are in Vienna."]

Government Showed 'Panicky Fear'

PM2602101692 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Feb 92 p 1

[Boris Slavin report under the "Echo of Rallies" rubric: "Anxiety Remains..."]

[Text] February 23 is behind us. As usual, everyone everywhere marked the festive date of the Soviet Army's formation. This is understandable, for the destinies of the people and their army are too interwoven in the country's history. This was spoken of at the rallies and demonstrations held in almost all the large cities of the former Union, from Irkutsk to Leningrad—St. Petersburg.

The rally in the capital, organized by the "Officers Union" and by various patriotic and communist organizations, passed off unusually. Mayakovskiy Square and the adjacent streets were bedecked with the flags of the Soviet Union, the Army, and the Navy. Here too were the flags of various patriotic movements (the Russian National Union, "Nashi [Our Boys]," and others). RSFSR and USSR People's Deputies S. Baburin, V. Alksnis, and S. Umalatova and others who addressed the rally spoke of the need to revive the country's former unity, prevent the breakup of the Army and Navy, and end without delay the dead-end policy of "shock therapy." In this connection they demanded the holding of a Congress of People's Deputies, the repeal of the illegal agreements on the CIS, and the start of preparations for a nationwide assembly and a political strike. Displeasure at the government's policy was so strong among the speakers that even the priest Lazar, an advocate of nonviolent resistance to evil, called for a search for new Minins and Pozharskiys [leaders of 17th century popular uprising] among the people.

The officers who spoke, representing various categories of troops, accused the CIS top military leadership of betraying the fatherland's interests and unilaterally disarming the Soviet Army while strengthening the NATO Armed Forces. In the opinion of Lieutenant Colonel S. Terekhov, leader of the "Officers Union," the rally showed that the people support the army in its desire for the unity of the state and the Armed Forces and for loyalty to the Soviet Fatherland and the oath. In his opinion, this rally is the first step in the patriotic consolidation of the officer corps.

The rally is over. It vividly attests to the broadening and strengthening of the social base of the new left-wing opposition in the country. This is normal for a civilized democratic society. At the same time I cannot get over the sense of the anxious, ambivalent atmosphere in which it was held. Why were there few military men and a lot of militiamen on the streets on that day, few smiles and a lot of puzzled questions? It is not easy to answer. Not only because the life of Soviet people is deteriorating with every passing day and because our society's progressive traditions, which had become part and parcel of the people, are being broken before our eyes. It is hard to answer because ordinary human consciousness cannot accommodate such contradictory facts as a nationwide festival and OMON [special purpose militia detachment] troops in the streets of the capital, ceremonial government actions devoted to Fatherland Defenders Day and a ban on officers' participation in festive demonstrations and rallies, the official invitation to Moscow residents to celebrate the festival widely and the closure of all the central subway stations—something unprecedented since Stalin's funeral. Finally, how are we to understand the use of nightsticks and gas against rally participants on a festive day?

I will try to answer. In my view, all this is a consequence of the government's showing panicky fear of the people, who as early as the 9 February rally showed their strength and their active rejection of the reforms which are being implemented at the working people's expense. In fact, what might have happened if the military had joined with the masses in Manezh Square 23 February? You never can tell, for this square is next to the Kremlin, and there could have been a repeat of October 1917. Hence the order from the top: to cut off Manezh Square and the nearby streets by means of OMON troops and to enable the government to lay wreaths in peace at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior and a combined brass band to play in solitude for itself and for the "chiefs." According

to Russian President B. Yeltsin, these measures were needed to prevent unpleasantness, to prevent anything from impeding access to the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior, and to ensure "observance of democracy and order."

But democracy and order were not ensured. The chains of militiamen and OMON members barring the central streets merely provoked the masses of people wishing to make their way to the V.I. Lenin Mausoleum and the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior. Blood was shed, and dozens of people were hospitalized. This is on the conscience of the guardians of "order." Pondering on this, I thought: Who knows, maybe this was the ultimate plan of the frenzied champions of democracy and order—to arouse extremism among the demonstrators and thus use it as an excuse for a general tightening of screws in the country. It is no coincidence that many mass media and speakers at the rally outside the "White House" have recently called for just this. In actual fact, are we not today entering the "long-awaited period of transition from democracy to dictatorship" predicted by many democrats? Well, we shall see what we shall see.

As already known, undesirable incidents arise at rallies when they are rashly prohibited. The Moscow government's prohibition of the rally in Manege Square has confirmed this once again. It should be pointed out in this connection that in its decision of 19 February Moscow City Soviet permitted the holding of rallies and demonstrations 23 February on the basis of notification. So who broke the law? If we want to live in a civilized democratic society, the law must be observed by everyone—both by the people and by the authorities. Otherwise arbitrariness cannot be avoided.

Intent 'To Heat Up Passions'

LD2602091992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Nikolay Agayants commentary]

[Text] The Day of the Defender of the Fatherland, as the Armed Forces holiday of the former Soviet Union is henceforth to be known in Russia, once again confirmed that our society is gravely ill, that the fracture line running through the souls of citizens of the Russian Federation is deep and very serious.

What happened on Sunday, 23 February, in the first capital of the country cannot help but alarm all those who genuinely hold dear the destiny of Russia. It is not just, or even so much, a matter of the fact that the mass anti-government protest demonstration organized by national patriots and former communists ended in riots, but that these were knowingly planned by the organizers of this strange, by no means festive, action. The slogans and posters with appeals for the restoration of the indissoluble Union, portraits of great leaders, demands for release of State Committee for the State of Emergency heroes Yazov and Varennikov were nothing but window-dressing, phony decorations covering the anti-democratic opposition's obvious desire to demonstrate their strength and cohesion and to fight for and win the support of the broad masses.

The 10-15,000 demonstrators who went out on the streets of the capital on 23 February were thinking least of all about the holiday, or about the future of our army. The noisy march, in the first ranks of which were the same famous, not to say notorious, personalities, including unsuccessful presidential candidates General Makashov and the public's favorite Zhirinovskiy, Aleksnis, Ampilov, Baburin and others who tried to get through the militia and OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment] cordons, was clear evidence of the organizers' intention—by hook or by crook—to heat up passions. And, with any luck, to provoke a clash with the forces of law and order. They managed to do this, in part.

Now, on the pages of PRAVDA', SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA and the other orthodox Communist publications, there are choking descriptions of some sort of carnage, about repressions by the democrats, about OMON arbitariness, innocent victims and so on and so forth.

All of a sudden, there pops up Eddy Boy [Edichka, author Eduard Limonov] Limonov, with his piece to say. Having wearied of sexual adventures in the West, he is now engaged in big politics, and delights to find himself in print in Chikin's SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA. He tirelessly pours filth upon democrats in general and the current Russian authorities in particular. In the latest edition he goes all out, without a thought in the article for how blasphemous his big talk about the events is. Blood was shed, people have been injured, but Edichka can only think of himself. I take off my cap, feel my head—there is no blood, but a big bump has already come up. People recognize me without my cap, shake my hand, ask for autographs, etc. We break our way past the malicious youths with their iron shields. Now among us and in front is Deputy Baburin. The overseas guest needed all these pictorial descriptions just to come to one conclusion: His majesty the people went out into the streets at last, and woe to him who tries to stop him by force.

Yuriy Nikolayev's article entitled "The Day Hopes Were Wrecked" is in the same provocative tone. Stop, gentlemen! comrades! stop your egging on and your ventriloquism. Stop hindering the implementation of the difficult and painful and so very necessary reforms. Stop stirring things up. Neither you, nor you and them, make up all the people. There should be no speculating on the lofty sentiments of our weary and already tormented people.

Poltoranin on Grant Selection for Publications

LD2502213392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 25 Feb 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Mikhail Poltoranin, deputy chairman of the Russian Government and minister of the press and media, met again with newspaper chief editors in Moscow today. We will recall that on 21 February the Russian president issued a decree according to which 70 percent of the paper produced by pulp and paper combines should be sold at a fixed price to those newspapers which will be covered by a special program of the Ministry of the Press and Information. True, this will soon become unprofitable for the paper producers since the previous prices for timber and chemicals have been retained. But it was not only such questions that were asked at the news conference today.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent A.Nasibov] Journalists proposed that a meeting between newspapermen, printers, and paper producers should be held as soon as possible in order to discuss common problems. For the press, a sharp increase in the price for paper is the main problem. It was decided to form a special group made up of representatives of all editorial offices within the next few days in order to prepare difficult issues for discussion in government and parliament. Journalists were also interested in prospects for concluding an agreement on a single information space between CIS member-countries and the issue of setting up an independent trade union of journalists in Russia.

Mikhail Nikoforovich, who will be selecting the publications which will get grants, and how?

[M.N. Poltoranin] We have set up a public council made up of editors, chief editors of many newspapers and magazines, representatives of the Moscow union of journalists and so on and this council will do the selection. We have simply become psychologically used to the fact that a newspaper is the cheapest thing but, in fact, it is a market product and commodity and it should correspond to all these market conditions. [end recording]

Editors, Parliament To Hold Joint Meeting

LD2502225492 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 25 Feb 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Mikhail Poltoranin, minister of press and information, held a discussion with the chief editors of central newspapers on the prospects for the survival of the press in the light of the last presidential decree on the legal and economic protection of the press. The government intends to support the fourth estate which causes it so much trouble, and so today's discussion concerned those problems that have to be resolved without delay.

Tomorrow in fact a working group will be set up which will deal with the preparation of proposals for a joint meeting of the chambers of the Supreme Soviet and editors of press publications. These propsals concern the elaboration mechanism for the operation of the presidential decree; the setting up of a single information space within the CIS, with unified rates for the delivery and distribution of periodicals; interest-free credits for press publications for several months; and also the unfreezing of hard currency accounts of poverty-stricken media outlets.

The editors spoke in favor of setting up a single trade union of trade unions of professional printers, papermakers and publishers, and also the speedy adoption of a law on intellectual property.

Foreign Ministry Launches 'Revamped' Magazine

LD2502162692 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Correspondent S. Sokolova report; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] To make the diplomatic service as accessible as possible to diplomats and to the ordinary reader: These are the tasks of the Russian Foreign Ministry's revamped magazine DIPLOMATICHESKIY VESTNIK [DIPLOMATIC GAZETTE]. The publication's main themes include Russia's relations with the other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the so-called immediate foreign neighbors. DIPLOMATICHESKIY VESTNIK has begun collaborating with two magazines of the U.S. State Department—DISPATCH and STATE. The idea is that each side grants the other space on its pages and that they exchange articles, Yuriy Denisov, the magazine's editor-in- chief stated at the presentation of the publication, held today at the Russian Foreign Ministry's guest house in Aleksey Tolstoy Street.

Later in the day, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev met the editors-in-chief of Russian newspapers and magazines in the same guest house. The purpose of the meeting was to establish closer contacts between the Foreign Ministry and the mass media. Admittedly, only just over half those invited actually came to the meeting.

Newsprint Donated to KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA

PM2502162992 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 22 Feb 92 p 1

[Telegram to KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA from V. Federmesser, general director of the "Kondopogabumprom" Association, as part of a feature under the general heading "KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA-92: We Have Wonderful Readers," followed by unattributed KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA note: "Kondopoga Donates Paper for Two Issues of KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA. Thank You!"]

[Text] **Urgent Telegram**

The "Kondopogabumprom" Production Association, on learning of the grave situation surrounding the appearance of everyone's favorite newspaper KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA due to a paper shortage, has adopted a decision about emergency aid to the editorial office in the form of 700 tonnes of newsprint to KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA free of charge. At the moment, a most complex process is under way to conclude contracts with suppliers of timber, which is determining the cost of newsprint and its price.

We understand fully and sympathize with the grave situation in which newspaper publishers find themselves, as well as the extremely grave situation of lumberjacks. We have no right not to take this into consideration. We are receiving telegrams from timber suppliers who are refusing to dispatch timber to the association due to there being no money to pay the lumberjacks' wages. The "Kondopogabumprom" Production Association has set itself this main task: To give the lumberjacks a chance to survive in these difficult times. But we are also ready to provide all the help within our power to the publishers of the major newspapers which have gotten into a difficult situation and with which we have developed good business relations over many years...

"Kondopogabumprom" will in the near future do everything to guarantee the regular appearance of the most widely read newspaper KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA by a reliable supply of Kondopoga newsprint.

[Signed] V. Federmesser, general director

The general director of the "Kondopogabumprom" Production Association sent at the same time a telegram to the "Pressa" Publishing House announcing the price of newsprint—5,500 rubles a tonne (almost one-half of what the publishing house is presently planning). This will do to begin with, won't it?

State Budget Law for First Quarter Reported

PM2502162492 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Feb 92 First Edition p 3

["Russian Federation Law on the Russian Federation Budgetary System for the First Quarter of 1992" signed by President Boris Yeltsin in Moscow on 24 January]

[Text] In implementation of the RSFSR law "On the Foundations of the Budgetary System and the Budgetary Process in the RSFSR," the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet **resolves**:

Article 1. That cognizance be taken of the draft Russian Federation budgetary system for the first quarter of 1992 submitted by the Russian Federation Government.

Article 2. That the Russian Federation Government be permitted to spend 420.5 billion rubles [R] in the first quarter of 1992 on the basis of the Russian Federation's republic budget income of R420.5 billion.

Article 3. That it be laid down that the Russian Federation republic budget income for the first quarter of 1992 is to be generated by means of:
value-added tax [VAT];
excise duty on spirits, vodka, liqueurs, spirits, and cars (with the exception of cars sold for personal use);
other federal taxes laid down by the Russian Federation law "On the Foundations of the Tax System in the Russian Federation";
revenue from the collection of export duties.

Article 4. That account be taken in the Russian Federation budget for the first quarter of 1992 of revenue from the main sources in the following sums (in millions of rubles):
VAT—134,065
Excise duty—7,430
Enterprise and organization profits tax—35,596
Income from foreign economic activity—228,000
Income from the privatization of state-owned and municipally owned facilities—3,000
Other taxes, imposts, duties, and other revenue—12,409

Article 5. That the Russian Federation Government be permitted in the first quarter of 1992 to transfer to the budgets of national-state and administrative-territorial formations:
part of the VAT revenue;
50 percent of total excise duties on alcohol, vodka, spirits, and liqueurs;
the remaining federal excise duties (with the exception of duty on cars).

Article 6. That a tax of 17 percent on the profits of enterprises, associations, and organizations be paid into the Russian Federation republic budget in the first quarter of 1992.

Article 7. That the procedure for establishing budgetary transactions under the tax on enterprise and organization profits and the enterprise income tax stipulated for enterprises relating to the main activity of rail transport and communications be extended for 1992 to air transport enterprises relating to the main activity of the Russian Federation Ministry of Transport.

Article 8. That appropriations from the Russian Federation republic budget be directed to the following purposes in the first quarter of 1992 (in millions of rubles):
Financing the national economy—20,967
of which:
subsidies for output sold at state-regulated prices—11,507
Financing enterprises undergoing conversion—10,000
Financing sociocultural measures—23,662
of which for:
education—16,471
culture and the arts—600
the mass media—2,488
health care and physical fitness—3,063
including:
Russian Federation Health Ministry—1,757

Russian Federation Goskomsanepidnadzor [expansion unknown] social welfare—228
payment of state benefits and compensation—702
Financing of fundamental scientific research and state (Russian Federation) scientific and technical programs—9,979
Financing of spending linked with foreign economic activity—219,652
of which:
fund for the regulation of import-export operations—56,100
Defense—50,727
of which:
upkeep of Armed Forces—20,589
payment for arms, military hardware and property—6,560
payment for scientific and technical products—5,296
capital construction—5,048
pensions to servicemen—2,960
spending by the Ministry of Atomic Power Engineering and Industry—1,947
upkeep of military construction detachments—327
Russian Federation participation in CIS states' common military spending—8,000
Implementation of international arms elimination, reduction, and limitation treaties—374
Upkeep of law-enforcement organs (courts excepted)—11,439
Upkeep of organs of state power and administration and of the courts—4,498
Funding of expenditure by the Russian Federation pension fund on the payment and issue of state pensions and benefits to draftees, social pensions, and benefits for children from 18 months to six years of age—7,814
Financing targeted state (Russian Federation) programs to eliminate the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear electric power station accident, the nuclear discharge in Chelyabinsk Oblast, and the impact over many years of the nuclear tests at the Semipalatinsk Range on the population of certain Russian Federation regions—5,095
State capital investment—27,874
including in the development of the agro-industrial complex—9,135
of which, in the development of the baby food industry—503
Financing of geological prospecting and geological exploration work—5,425
Formation of financial reserves for the indexation of protected articles of Russian Federation republic budget spending—17,962
Formation of the Russian Federation Government reserve fund—2,000
Formation of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet fund for social support to the population—1,500
Subsidies to republic budgets of republics within the Russian Federation and autonomous formation budgets—953
Targeted program for the development of the economy and culture of the numerically small peoples of the North—500
Other spending—79

Article 9. That the Russian Federation budgetary system take account of appropriations for financing measures to provide social protection to the population in the amount of R20.8 billion, including R16.2 billion for the payment of benefits and compensation for children.

That in the first quarter of 1992 the income from revaluing residual output and goods in connection with price liberalization, plus 10 percent of the income received by budgets at all levels from the privatization of state property, be channeled into forming funds for social support to the population.

Article 10. That in the first quarter of 1992 R1.6 billion from the Russian Federation republic budget be allocated to the "Russian Farmer" Fund for the outfitting of newly formed peasant (private) farms.

Article 11. That the following spending from total Russian Federation republic budget appropriations be approved for the upkeep of organs of state power and administration and the courts (millions of rubles):
Russian Federation Supreme Soviet—78.6
Russian Federation president's administration—103.7
Russian Federation Supreme Court of Arbitration and courts of arbitration—50.41
Russian Federation Constitutional Court—12.8
Russian Federation Supreme Court—5.9
Other courts and Russian Federation Prosecutor's Office—842.31
Russian Federation ministries and departments and their organs—3,066.598
of which:
Russian Federation Government Committee for Land Reform and Land Resources and its territorial organs—103.732
Russian Federation State Committee for Antimonopoly Policy and Support for New Economic Structures and its territorial organs—9.888
Missions, consulates, agencies, and other Russian Federation diplomatic establishments abroad—348

Article 12. With a view to further expanding the rights and duties of organs of state power in national-state and administrative-territorial formations, spending in the following areas is to be switched to funding from the budgets of the relevant national-state and administrative-territorial formations:
subsidies to urban and suburban motor transport for public use (except taxis);
subsidies for foodstuffs sold at state regulated prices. This provision does not extend to special consumers;
spending on the upkeep of territorial organs under the Russian Federation Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources, the Russian Federation State Committee for the Socioeconomic Development of the North, and the Russian Federation Ministry of Trade

and Material Resources' State Inspectorate for the Quality of Goods and Trade;
spending on subway construction and maintenance;
other mutually agreed spending.

Article 13. That subsidies totalling R953,254,000 be allocated from the Russian Federation republic budget for the first quarter of 1992 to republic budgets of republics within the Russian Federation and to autonomous formation budgets to finance spending on social support to the population not provided for by the territories' own financial resources (millions of rubles):
Northern Region:
Nenetsk Autonomous Okrug—43.017
Volga Region:
Kalmyk SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic]—40.160
North Caucasus Region:
Dagestan SSR—420.531
Chechen-Ingush Republic—16.882
Urals Region:
Komi-Permyak Autonomous Okrug—10.863
Western Siberia Region:
Gorno-Altay SSR—27.494
Eastern Siberia Region:
Taymyr (Dolgano-Nenetsk) Autonomous Okrug—25.550
Evenki Autonomous Okrug—9.028
Ust-Ordynskiy Buryat Autonomous Okrug—53.325
Aginskiy Buryat Autonomous Okrug—26.522
Tuva Republic—201.192
Far East Region:
Koryak Autonomous Okrug—78.681

Article 14. That the Supreme Soviets of republics within the Russian Federation and local soviets, by agreement with the Councils of Ministers of republics within the Russian Federation and organs of executive power in national-state and administrative-territorial formations, be granted the right to:
set the amount paid by parents for the maintenance of their children at preschool institutions and educational establishments;
set increased fines for breaches of road traffic regulations.

Article 15. In connection with the adoption of the Russian Federation's new tax legislation, it is laid down that all tax privileges are to be applied solely in accordance with the aforesaid legislation.

Article 16. That the Russian Federation Government, prior to the adoption of the Russian Federation law "On Natural Resources [o nedrakh]," be permitted to set payment rates for the right to explore, prospect, and extract mineral resources and (or) for the right to exploit natural resources other than for the extraction of minerals.

That it be laid down that the distribution of these payments between the Russian Federation republic budget and the budgets of national-state and administrative-territorial formations shall be weighted at 65 and 35 percent respectively, with the exception of payments for the exploitation of deposits of precious metals and gemstones.

Article 17. That the Russian Central Bank be permitted to issue:
a loan to the Armed Forces in the sum of R1,248.9 million to pay off debts to contractors [zakazchikam] for work done in 1991 and for expenditure in 1991 on capital construction and major overhauls;
a targeted loan to the Russian Federation Government to finance enterprises in the process of conversion in 1992, with interest payments on the loan being paid out of the Russian Federation republic budget.

Article 18. That the Armed Forces be exempted in 1992 from payment for land occupied by them in the interests of defense. That the Russian Federation Government Committee for Land Reform and Land Resources together with the Armed Forces High Command and local soviet executive organs be instructed to take an inventory in the first half of 1992 of the tracts of land used in the interests of defense, and to take measures to transfer unused and surplus land to local organs of state power.

Article 19. That the Russian Central Bank utilize in 1992 the system employed in 1991 for recording the implementation of the Russian Federation republic budget and the budgets of national-state and administrative-territorial formations.

Article 20. That Russian Federation State Republic Domestic Loan bonds be issued on the terms laid down in Article 25 of the RSFSR law "On the RSFSR State Budgetary System in 1991" with a view to partially paying off the Russian Federation state debt on the basis of the results of the implementation of the Russian Federation republic budget for 1991.

Article 21. That the Russian Federation Government make provision in the Russian Federation republic budget for 1992 for funds to pay for spending on servicing Russian Federation state debt, including that part of the former USSR's domestic state debt devolving to the Russian Federation, in sums agreed with the Russian Central Bank.

Article 22. That the Russian Central Bank be permitted to grant a loan in the first quarter of 1992 to the Russian Federation Ministry of Economics and Finance to cover cash shortfalls [kassovyye razryvy] of up to R15 billion in the Russian Federation republic budget—this amount to be paid off by 15 June 1992 by means of funds raised from the issue of Russian Federation State Republic Domestic Loan bonds.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin

Moscow, House of the Soviets of Russia,

24 January 1992

No. 2246-1

Supreme Soviet

Resolution on Using Russia, Russian Federation

LD2602113992 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0900 GMT 26 Feb 92

["Resolution of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation on the procedure for using the names 'Russia' and 'Russian Federation' and Words and Combinations of Words Formed on the Basis of Them in the Names of Organizations and Other Structures"]

[Text] [no dateline as received]—The Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation resolves:

1. To establish that until a Russian Federation law "On State Symbols" is adopted and is brought into force, the names "Russia" and "Russian Federation" and words and combinations of words formed on the basis of them in the names of state and non-state enterprises, establishments, organizations, and other structures (apart from political parties, trade unions, and religious associations) may be used only with the agreement of the government of the Russian Federation and in accordance with the adopted legislative acts of the Russian Federation.

2. The Government of the Russian Federation should ensure that the registration documents of the structures mentioned in Paragraph 1 of this resolution which use in their names the designations "Russia" and "Russian Federation" or words or combinations of words formed on the basis of them are revised (without these structures being reregistered or registration fees being levied on them).

[Signed] R.I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation

[Dated] Moscow, Russian House of Soviets, 14 February 1992

Government, Local Soviet Representatives Meet

LD2202230992

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1630 GMT on 18 February broadcasts the Russian Parliamentary Herald program, which today comes from St. Petersburg and is presented by S.A. Nosovets, a member of the Russian Supreme Soviet.

Nosovets says that leaders and representatives of the Russian Supreme Soviet and the Russian Government have today been meeting representatives of kray and oblast soviets and of the Supreme Soviets of the republics within the Russian Federation. St. Petersburg representatives were also present. The meeting took place in the Mariinskiy Palace, the home of the St. Petersburg city soviet (referred to in Russian as Petersovet). The program consists of a series of brief interviews with people who attended the meeting. These are A.B. Chubays, chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for Managing State Property; A.P. Leontyev, chairman of the Omsk oblast soviet; S.A. Filatov, first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet; Yu.F. Yarov, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet; V. N. Stepanov, chairman of the Karelian Supreme Soviet; A.A. Sobchak, mayor of St. Petersburg; and R.I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet.

Nosovets says that the emphasis is on the meeting of the Russian regions in order to exchange information and to ensure better communication and relations between central and local bodies of power.

Sobchak says: "This form of work is essential, particularly in conditions where the situation is so difficult and we need not only to implement reform but to keep a constant eye on what is happening once this is done and to make amendments to it. From this point of view the exchange of views and information from the localities is simply vital. There is another side to the issue, too; that is the question of the relationship between representative and executive power which naturally arises. I have already said what worries me. It is something that can be seen particularly here and in Moscow and at local level too, not so clearly or to such a great extent, perhaps, but it does exist—I mean the duplication of power."

The last to be interviewed is Khasbulatov, who says: "In such a large country, it is the regional representatives from the local soviets who are really well aware of the state of their regions and they have much to say that is useful. Then there is the other side, the psychological side, to some extent. They are the ones who come into contact with the population and their demands and needs. It is the regional representatives who go to the shops and who receive the real people who live in the towns, villages, and krays, which makes it simply essential to listen to their views and take them into account in amending our plans, and from the purely human point of view to give them support.

"The country is literally crying out so we do need to provide support somehow, saying the right thing. When there are contradictions they need to be sorted out peacefully, with both sides moving closer together rather than by shaking fists, as happens in Parliament sometimes. I think it has been a useful meeting."

Nosovets, interviewing Khasbulatov, says: "I think that we should perhaps stress once again that we heard here too that the Supreme Soviet in itself, in the leading bodies of the Supreme Soviet and its direct leaders, is actually to a certain extent the guarantee of protection for the representative bodies, as was said in the auditorium."

Khasbulatov replies: "Yes, of course. For the moment the soviets are the only representative bodies we have, and any utterances against that principle in the form of criticism of the soviets is aimed against representative

democracy, which has only just barely established itself. It is not long since everyone was saying: All power to the soviets! Down with partocracy! Now, as the soviets are trying to come to terms with their new functions, attacks on them have already started. In actual fact these are attempts to undermine representative democracy by people from the executive apparat who have perhaps come to power by accident and are simply hampering democracy. What they need is an authoritarian regime that can do what it likes arbitrarily. This will not happen. The guarantee of that is the Supreme Soviet."

Nosovets notes during his report that there was a separate meeting between Khasbulatov and the St. Petersburg authorities to discuss legislation and its implementation.

Dispute Over Mineral Resources Law Examined

PM2602111192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Feb 92 First Edition p 3

[Yekaterina Vasilchenko report under the "Economy" rubric: "The Law on Mineral Resources: Battle on the Road to the Market"]

[Text] The parliamentary pressure tactics were organized according to all the rules.

During a discussion of the draft law on mineral resources, staffers from the Ministry of the Fuel and Power Industry, who are known to oppose this document, gathered about them a group of people's deputies and went outside with them for a cigarette. Having come back in, the smokers took up positions by all five microphones in the hall. No sooner had the voice of keynote speaker People's Deputy Sergeyev died away, than they rained down criticism on him from all sides of the hall. The criticism focused mainly on procedural issues—amendments introduced by the two chambers of parliament that had not coordinated the matter between them. Nonetheless, this fact (several negative speeches in a row) was obvious. Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov threw his hands up in despair as if to say: What can I do about it? The supporters of the draft barely had time to regain their composure before it was dispatched for further reworking.

The law on mineral resources should finally clarify the question of ownership rights to mineral resources: It is planned to institute joint ownership by local and federal authorities (water, gravel, clay, sand, and other widely distributed materials are to belong to local authorities outright). Regardless of the type of ownership, an extracting organization must get permission to develop the mineral resources both locally and in Moscow (a "dual key" system), and then make a payment for the mineral resources into the local and central budgets.

Every one of the 80 Federation members must draw up an annual program for surveying and extracting mineral resources on its territory. The sum needed to pay for the program can be taken by local authorities out of the profit earned from the sale of raw material extracted on their territory the year before, and any surplus must be transferred to the republic budget to finance basic research and future development.

Geologists, who in the event of the law's adoption will be entitled to 9 percent of the value of the raw material extracted from a deposit surveyed by them, are active defenders of the draft law—9 percent is the figure specialists estimate will be borne by the geologists in up-front expenditure [operezhayushchiye zatraty]. This system would henceforth enable geology to do without budgetary appropriations and keep afloat until enterprises and associations in the sector have been placed on a joint-stock footing and transferred to a commercial foundation. According to estimates by the Committee for Geology, this process will last about two years.

In the first quarter of this year, geology received from the budget less than one-half the money necessary to carry out the work planned by the government: a total of 5.4 billion [currency not specified] instead of 13 billion. This means cutting back 60 percent of all enterprises in the sector and dismissing 270,000 people, a blow for the well-being of their families, and also the destruction of communities and the entire infrastructure that supports the sector.

In order to make ends meet, the committee turned to the Central Bank of Russia for credit worth 8 billion rubles [R]. "As a means of securing credit on the basis of the Russian Federation Law 'On Collateral,' the committee is pledging geological information about eight oil and gas deposits in Krasnoyarsk Kray and in Tyumen and Arkhangelsk Oblasts estimated to be worth R8.115 billion on 1 January 1992. If the obligation to repay the credit is not honored within the fixed term, the committee will hand over to the Central Bank of Russia rights of possession, use, and disposal of information about the deposits together with balance reserves of oil, natural gas, and condensate worth R143 billion on 1 January 1992."

The bank accepted the obligation of lien, but delayed paying out the credit until the adoption of the law on mineral resources because receipt of 9 percent of the value of the extracted raw material should form the basis of the sector's creditworthiness.

The delay in adopting the law has brought Russian geology to the brink of extinction. If no money is received, the sector will begin to collapse as early as this spring. If it comes too late, it will not be possible to transport cargoes along the winter roads to the remote regions where the largest deposits of oil and gas are located. The work program will be disrupted, and geology will sustain losses that it will be unlikely to recoup.

As far as the opposite camp is concerned (this basically means the oil lobby), it has its own reasons for "blackballing" the draft law.

The law on mineral resources deprives the Ministry of the Fuel and Power Industry of its monopoly right to exploit mineral resources. If it comes into force, the law will grant this right to anyone with an appropriate license, in other words any professional. No ministry authorization will be necessary. It is possible to forecast the future development of events: Extracting enterprises will start switching to a joint-stock footing and turn into autonomous companies. A similar process is already beginning in geology, and this will inevitably affect processing enterprises as well. The next stage would therefore be the transformation of specialized firms into general-purpose ones, where the entire production cycle would take place under the same "roof"—"from the well to the gas pump." In a short time 20-30 such firms could be established on Russian territory, both large and not so large ones, which would compete among themselves as is the practice all over the civilized world. The Ministry of the Fuel and Power Industry, like the Committee for Geology and Mineral Resources, would merely be left with the role of coordinators and middlemen between industrialists and the state.

The Committee for Geology also supported the draft law because the emergence of a proper customer—the intercompeting extracting firms with their various types of ownership—is a guarantee that geology will survive and develop in market conditions.

The Ministry of the Fuel and Power Industry has no objection to consolidating the entire production cycle under one "roof," but it is presenting this process in its own way, in the sense that the "roof" should be its own ministerial roof, and instead of several dozen competing firms it wants to set up a single superdepartment that will monopolize fuel production in the republic.

Steps have already been taken in this direction: In December, G. Burbulis signed a government resolution "On Transferring Control of Enterprises, Institutions, and Organizations in the Oil-Refining Industry to the Russian Federation Ministry of the Fuel and Power Industry." This means that oil extraction and refining is already in the hands of one ministry. A supermonopolist, the like of which did not exist even in the heyday of the administrative edict economy, is being born right before our eyes. It needs to do just one more thing to make itself complete: subordinate geology.

This is why the ministry is making every effort to cut off supplies of financial "oxygen" to the geologists. If the sector is destroyed, the way in which its enterprises become subordinate to Lopukhin is not particularly important: either by purchase and sale or by the appearance of a new government resolution on a "transfer to his control."

The ministry's position is explicable at any rate. It is far harder to understand the actions of the Supreme Soviet, which is putting the brakes on the adoption of an important market law, and of the government which, in the name of switching to the market, is forcing the population to tighten its belt even further while at the same time adopting completely antimarket resolutions that make it impossible to commercialize the most important sectors working on the creation of a mineral raw material base. In fact it would be naive to assume that the department is battling intentionally to concentrate power in its own hands, only to part with it voluntarily later on and be satisfied with the modest role of coordinator.

Perhaps by putting the entire mineral and raw material base and the whole fuel and power industry complex under the authority of a single ministry, the government hopes to keep tight state control over this sphere of the economy. At the same time it is planting a time bomb beneath its own feet. A supermonopoly will enable the ministry not only to inflate fuel prices to an unlimited extent but also to dictate its conditions to the Russian authorities. In fact, if it deprives the country of gasoline and natural gas, this would exert even greater pressure than the miners could exert by coming out onto the square in Mezhdurechensk.

At the same time the cost to the state of liquidating the geological sector will come to R87-89 billion, according to calculations, which by far exceeds even the full budget provision for this year—taking value-added tax into account, this could come to R59 billion.

It would be far cheaper to regulate the issue by legislative procedure.

Parliament Seeks Control of Intelligence Organs

PM2502164492 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Parliament Takes Control of Activity of State Security and Foreign Intelligence Service Organs"]

[Text] The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet has adopted a resolution on parliamentary control over the activity of state security and foreign intelligence organs.

This was done on 21 February at a joint session of the chambers in connection with the need, as stated in the document, for "a serious analysis and check of the Russian Federation's state security and foreign intelligence organs on the part of parliament."

The investigation by the prosecutor's office and the parliamentary commissions and the parliamentary hearings into the causes and consequences of the August putsch have shown, as is known, that the leaders of the top component of the USSR KGB, whose activity had for a number of years been outside the control of representative organs of power, were at the center of the anticonstitutional conspiracy. The Supreme Soviet is establishing control in planning and conducting operations, implementing cadre policy, approving and expending the budget, and observing human rights in the activity of state security and foreign intelligence organs.

Provision is made for entrusting functions of controlling the activity of state security and foreign intelligence organs to the Supreme Soviet Committee for Defense and Security Questions and the plenipotentiary Supreme Soviet commission for control over forming state security organs and law-enforcement organs.

The president of the Russian Federation is recommended to refrain from new reorganizations of state security and foreign intelligence organs until the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet has discussed the conclusions and proposals of the Committee for Defense and Security Questions and the Commission for Control.

The conclusions and proposals of the committee and the commission must be submitted for discussion in the Supreme Soviet before 1 July.

Commission Reports on Gold, Diamond Enterprises

OW2402202092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1630 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A special commission will present a report on the activities of diamond-gold extraction to the Presidium of the Russian parliament by mid March, the director of a parliamentary sub-committee, Leonid Gurchevich, told INTERFAX. He added that the comprehensive analysis of the state of affairs in this field was motivated by an address sent to the Russian Government from the South African firm "De Beer's". The firm signed a mortgage agreement with the government of the former USSR in mid 1990 under which the government is obligated to sell De Beer's 95% of the country's diamond exports over a five year period. According to Gurevich the commission's work will ensure "continuation of competent and civilized relations with De Beer's" and will provide an answer to the question of how to best adapt the fields of diamond and gold extraction to a market economy.

Gurevich said that recently serious problems have arisen as Yakutia, the seat of most gold and diamond mining, stopped supplying manufacturing industries. Representatives of the Republic were included in the commission but are not participating in its work. However, Gurevich is certain the problem will be solved. He said that the commission will present arguments which will convince the leaders of Yakutia that it is senseless to bring hardship on itself.

Commission Discusses State Structure Issues

LD2502233392 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Report by correspondent Andrey Nikiforov from Russian House of Soviets]

[Excerpt] The committees and commissions of the Supreme Soviet of Russia are holding working meetings today. A very wide spectrum of questions is being examined, from finalizing a draft for a new constitution to establishing contacts with the states of the commonwealth in the fields of culture and art.

Now we would like to tell you in more detail about what one can call the most representative meeting, which is being held by the commission of the Soviet of Nationalities on interethnic relations. To be more precise, it is a seminar conference with representatives of the republics within the Russian Federation, and its aim is to coordinate a law-creating process here in the Russian parliament and in the Supreme Soviets of the republics, to remove existing contradictions and those which might arise in the future. Of course, at the focus of the participants' attention is one important document—an agreement on the delimitation of powers between the Russian Federation and the republics within it. That is it in general, but I asked Omar Yerijirovich Timirov, people's deputy of Russia and chairman of the Subcommission on the Problems of the Republics, to explain the details of the work.

[Begin Timirov recording] At the focus of attention of those speaking at the seminar are three documents, specifically: the fourth section of the new constitution of the Russian Federation; the drafts which were previously worked out for a federation treaty; and a draft agreement between the federal authorities and the republics.

Well, it would not be easy to say that we have already found an acceptable version. The exchange of opinions shows that out of 20 republics, 15 believe that we should conclude a federation treaty, which should be included as a component part of the new constitution and in this way resolve the problems of the national and state structure of the Russian Federation. Only five republics are speaking out, with a certain hesitation, in favor of the draft agreement, but they too are inclined toward the view that a federation treaty is the more acceptable variant, a constitutional treaty structure for the Russian Federation.

I must say that the outline for the national and state structure of the Russian Federation is proving very difficult to work out. There is a broad divergence of opinions. The constitutional commission has proposed a fourth option, which was published in the press last year, and this fourth section of the constitution does not suit the republics. The republics were working for a long time with the Supreme Soviet of Russia on a version of the federation treaty. They included in it their basic wishes and requests for modification of the national and state structure of Russia. Recently the idea has emerged of an agreement in which they have been trying to include a series of provisions from the federal treaty and another outline distinct from it; well, one might say the whole outline of the fourth section.

Experience already shows that the republics do not agree with the draft agreement. Therefore our task is as follows: While the work of this seminar is continuing, while working directly with the planners in the constitutional

commission, and while continuing to work with the republics, to find the optimum variant which would allow us to submit a draft for a new constitution at the forthcoming sixth Congress of People's Deputies, and if this succeeds, to adopt in the first reading the draft for a new constitution. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Regional Affairs

Dudayev, Gamsakhurdia 'Comrades in Misfortune'

PM2502153192 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Feb 92 p 2

[Anatoliy Grachev report: "What the Presidents Agreed in Groznyy"]

[Text] Groznyy—The appearance of Georgian President Z. Gamsakhurdia in Groznyy was expected to be some kind of stunning sensation. This was not the case. The journalists who gathered here were very disappointed. The meeting between D. Dudayev and Z. Gamsakhurdia was mutual support for both of them. One president has been recognized by the Russian Government; the other has not.

So they discussed relevant questions—such as the Chechen delegation's peace mission to Tbilisi, where an attempt was made to persuade the present interim government to restore the ousted president and the institutions of power that existed under him. They also discussed the creation of a union of Caucasian states and common Caucasian armed forces. They talked about North Ossetia returning part of its current territory to Ingushetia without preconditions, and about the fact that the South Ossetians have forgotten the name of their age-old motherland, their land becoming simply part of Georgia.

These are the kinds of questions the presidents "decided." Does this mean that we should expect a new exacerbation of the situation in the area? Probably the ousted Georgian president has not had his fill of the casualties, disasters, and sufferings inflicted on his people, and clearly it is not enough for President Dudayev to have on his shoulders the fate of hundreds of thousands of people who are currently living in fear in the face of today's outbreaks of crime and have no confidence in the future. How tired they are of this! How the inhabitants of Checheno and Georgia would like a quiet, normal life. If the presidents do not realize this, they are only to be pitied as comrades in misfortune.

Dudayev Says Special Forces Aggravate Situation

OW2502212992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1900 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Speaking on local television Tuesday [25 February] President of the Chechen Republic Dzhakhar Dudayev accused the Russian special forces and the former local privileged class of aggravating the situation in the Republic. In particular, he named Khasbulatov, Aslakhanov, Ibragimov, and a number of others.

It was reported that the solider of CIS local garrsions "are essentially fulfilling someone else's will." Dudayev said that he and his authorities relate to the Russians "with greatest respect and ask them not to give in to provocation from the center".

Self-Defense Staff Established

LD2602091892 Moscow TASS in English 0756 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow February 26 TASS—The Chechen Republic has set up a staff of self-defence forces, which were created after Russian President Boris Yeltsin ordered a state of emergency in this republic, the newspaper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA said.

"We are ready to build collective defence both with the Commonwealth of Independent States and Russia," Chief of Staff Musa Merzhuyev said.

He said if an agreement is reached with the Commonwealth of Independent States and Russia, "we will train personnel in Commonwealth colleges and Chechen officers will be able to serve outside the republic."

Bashkir Supreme Soviet Sends Telegram to Yeltsin

LD2502144892 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1200 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] A session of the Supreme Soviet of the Bashkir Soviet Socialist Republic began work in Ufa today. The republican parliament started its work with the adoption of the text for a telegram addressed to Boris Yeltsin, Ruslan Khasbulatov, and Yegor Gaydar. This states that the 4 million people of Bashkortostan are entitled to have at their disposal no less than 30 percent of their output, produced at the expense of intense efforts and health, damaged by polluted water and air. We want the opinion of the Supreme Soviet of Bashkiriya to be respected and for it to be pointed out to Russian President Boris Yeltsin that the matter of issuing quotas and licenses to carry out foreign economic activity has been resolved positively. The Bashkir Soviet Socialist Republic will now be called Bashkortostan.

Moscow Poll Shows Increase in Public Optimism

MK2502125792 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 25 Feb 92 p 3

[Nikolay Kuznetsov report: "They Will Not Be Taking to the Barricades"]

[Text] The Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Sociopolitical Studies Interethnic Relations Sociology

Center and the KURANTY editorial office have conducted another poll of Muscovites to test the "temperature" of social sentiment. The same townspeople were polled as in January.

The poll's results illustrate that Muscovite families' living conditions have stabilized and have even somewhat improved. In January, 81 percent of respondents said that their families' lives had begun to deteriorate, but in February 69 percent said so. Some 26 percent (16 percent in January) claim that everything has remained the same. There has been an increase in the number of people whose families have been able to improve their living conditions: Last month they represented 2.2 percent, while this month the figure had risen to 4.4 percent.

There was a negligible rise in the number of people who have been given hope by the previous month's events of an improvement in their position: This figure was 28 and 29 percent in January and February respectively. However, the number of people without any hope has dropped from 65 to 61 percent. There is an appreciable tendency for people to change orientation: In January some of those polled were relying on help from their families and charity from national entrepreneurs, but in February there were more people relying on themselves alone—on their own initiative and enterprise. The number of people who are desperate and have lost heart, as well as those who were ready to take to the barricades in January, has also dropped.

"If the situation deteriorates, will you able to endure it, and for how long?" Some 19 percent (23 percent in January) think that the situation is already unbearable, while 27 percent (33 percent) are willing to endure it for up to a year, 6 percent (11 percent) are willing to endure it for up to two years, and 3 percent (7 percent) are willing to endure it for no more than five years, but 21 percent of respondents are ready to endure it "as long as it takes." Well, as the saying goes, we all have our cross to bear.

Conversion Problems at Saratov Aircraft Plant

PM2602091692 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Report by Oleg Shommer from Saratov; from the "Itogi" newscast]

[Text] [Shommer] Saratov no longer is the odd one out among Russian cities. By the decision of the highest authorities it has been granted "open city" status. Now everyone will be welcome here.

The interest which this has evoked is understandable. According to Peter Hauslohner, special assistant to U.S. Ambassador Robert Strauss and the first official representative of the U.S. Administration to visit Saratov a few days ago, the problem is that there are too many businessmen here and too little money. Yet there were times, not so long ago, when the situation was just the opposite, even if we must admit that the most money was invested in defense complex enterprises, equipped with the latest equipment and international-standard know-how, which account for the overwhelming majority of enterprises in this city.

Today, in order to survive, they have to engage in business practices and push out their output—some of it onto the market and some of it to the scrap yard.

Prior to reconstruction, journalists had never set foot in this production unit. These "phantom" missiles [commentator uses both the Russian and foreign term—rakety prizraky, rakety fantomy], known in common parlance simply as "winged" missiles [Russian term for cruise missiles], were hidden here from human eyes.

"Let us beat missiles into kettles and assault aircraft into airliners"—this is the task which the Saratov Aircraft Plant collective has set itself, and it is coping with it. Over the past two years alone the share of military output, which accounted for almost 50 percent of the total output, has been reduced by a factor of 10. The local aircraft builders, who have become the sector's trend setters in this respect, were able to cope with this pace—compounded by the necessary multimillion expenditure—only as co-owners, proprietors of their plant.

Nonetheless, conversion as such cannot provide the answer to the main question on the agenda.

[Aleksandr Yermishin, aircraft plant director] First we do not know why our weapons are needed. There is still no doctrine; for us this is important. It is not merely a philosophical question; it determines the thrust of our entire industrial machine. I believe that everything that can be sold should be sold. Withdrawing from a market is totally inappropriate, and we have withdrawn from the arms market. If it is a question of reducing the war danger, it is necessary for people to reach agreement to cut quotas, to withdraw equitably. That is a solution, but when one party voluntarily withdraws, his place is taken by another. That is a law of the market.

[Shommer] The aircraft builders are now trying to conquer the market with civilian output and not without success. A number of aircraft, having prevailed in a competition with Boeing, have gone to China. Contracts with other foreign countries are being concluded.

However, obtaining hard currency for the goods—the transactions were conducted via the Vneshekonombank [Bank for Foreign Economic Activity]—proved even more difficult than switching military production to a civilian footing. Russia's Air Transport Department has yet to settle accounts for aircraft bought as long ago as last year through the "Aviazakaz" shareholding company. So the collective owners now have debts of 300 million rubles.

Psychological factors also have to be taken into account. Workers are beginning to seriously doubt the need for

conversion. After all, military orders provided stability and a dependable income. In order to somehow improve its situation, the plant is expanding its production of consumer goods.

[Shommer turning to Yermishin] You have lost many military orders. Could it happen that in order to survive, it may become more advantageous for you to produce whistling kettles which sell like hot cakes rather than modern airliners which are not easy to sell?

[Yermishin] If you want metal from people, and they come to you because they want something, it is usually not an aircraft. Only two big suppliers have asked us for an aircraft. The rest want kettles. So that is what they get, and we get our metal. When more civilized times arrive, we will pay in rubles. I hope it will not be too long.

Tatar President on Referendum on Sovereignty

OW2602014692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1900 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tatarstan President Mintimer Shaymiyev considers the impending republican referendum of March 21 "a form of defense of the Republic's state sovereignty". Speaking at a press conference in Kazan Tuesday [25 February] he said that the referendum is the result of the Russian Federation's non-recognition of the declaration of state sovereignty of Tatarstan.

Shaymiyev accused the Russian Government of underestimating the current situation in former autonomies. He said that more than half of these republics don't accept the Russian Constitution and the agreement on differentiation of powers. Among them are North Ossetia, Kalmykiya, and Bashkortostan.

The president supports equality, based on agreements, in the relationship between Tatarstan and Russia.

Shaymiyev said that the republic does not plan to introduce customs, currency, or to form its own army. The president stated that the Constitution of Tatarstan should establish the equality of the Russian and Tatar languages in the republic as well as dual citizenship.

Tyumen Oil, Gas Industry Prospects Eyed

PM2602104592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Feb 92 First Edition p 6

[Interview with Tyumen Oblast Administration Head Yuriy Konstantinovich Shafranik by Vladimir Yefimov; datelined Tyumen Oblast, under the rubric "Local Life"; date not given: "The Path to Ownership. Denial of Provincial Rights Will Kill Off Reform"]

[Text] [Shafranik] The question of Tyumen Oblast's inalienable right to receive payment for the utilization of its natural wealth—more simply, its oil and gas—was first raised at an oblast soviet session some 18 months ago. It was clear to everyone: Things will not get moving while the oblast is denied its rights. The center did not understand what it was doing; investments in the oil and gas complex were being reduced, thus reducing the extraction of these hydrocarbon raw materials. This drove into deadlock not only us, but the economy of the whole country. [Shafranik ends]

So began a conversation with Yuriy Konstantinovich Shafranik, administration head of an oblast into whose territory almost all of the former republics could fit with room left for another small country and which has 75 percent of the former Union's oil and gas reserves! You feel like writing: Tyumen—a gigantic oil and gas empire, but we have no more illusions left on this score: Even against the background of Russia's woeful conditions, the oblast lags behind on many social parameters. The contrast between the underground wealth and the poverty of people's lives here shocked even B.N. Yeltsin. His visit resulted in the decree "On the Development of Tyumen Oblast." This document has undoubtedly strengthened the positions of Russia's oil capital, but its reception has been mixed. Opponents have been found in the government, in the oil industry, and in the commercial structures. Why?

[Shafranik] Simply because Tyumen Oblast has really acquired serious rights! Can the government be enthusiastic over the fact that the territory and its enterprises have acquired the right to freely utilize 20 percent of the total production of oil and gas? After all, that is almost 60 million tonnes of oil and more than 100 billion cubic meters of gas, which in total volume exceeds the annual export deliveries of hydrocarbon raw materials by the entire former Union. I suppose some people might think that this is "pampering" the oblast. So be it! But alas, there is no other, more efficient means of reviving the oil and gas complex. The decree gives us a chance to escape from long, humiliating hours of waiting in the reception rooms of bosses in the capital and begging for funds which we ourselves have earned. It is clear that reforms can succeed today only through specific territories and enterprises. The people of Tyumen must feel a real improvement in their lives: otherwise we will discredit not only ourselves but also the idea of territorial self-government. It is necessary to fight for the truth.

[Yefimov] Against whom?

[Shafranik] Against the flawed system which oppressed us before and which, nowadays transformed at Russian level, rules the roost and blocks with impunity the implementation of the president's decree "On the Development of Tyumen Oblast." All our proposals concerning the oblast's structures, the program for its development, and the fund to implement it underwent lengthy coordination in the ministries—and not a word has been heard. To this day the situation remains unclear regarding both financing the oil and gas complex and the territorial quota for hydrocarbon raw materials. According to forecasts, this will result in a decline of 100

million tonnes in next year's oil extraction, which will deal the knockout punch to an economy that is already paralyzed.

You get the feeling that the revival of the oil and gas complex is not to anyone's advantage—neither the former Council of Ministers nor the present Russian Government. I would like to be proved wrong, but I cannot help feeling that Moscow longs to be today what it was formerly, the center through which everything from toilet paper to oil is disbursed. If this is really how things stand, the government's quarrel is not really specifically with Tyumen Oblast but with the reform they themselves proposed.

[Yefimov] In his recent interview, Russian Vice Premier Yegor Gaydar described the oil and gas complex as one of the spheres of administration that is a breeding ground for crime. The press is also sounding the alarm over the systematic squandering of natural wealth, primarily of oil. You often hear the oil generals speaking about the corruption that thrives in the corridors of power. By way of an example they even cite the amount of the bribe you have to offer to receive an export license—$5 for every tonne of oil. Western firms working in Russia have been forced to include the costs of bribing functionaries in estimating their expenses.

[Shafranik] Unfortunately, corruption acquires increasingly alarming proportions with each passing year. The chaos is profitable—export licenses are signed by anyone who feels like signing them. Judge for yourself—in December of last year, while the level of oil extraction stood at 36 million tonnes, licenses were issued for 33.6 million tonnes. The situation with fuel oil is even more indicative—5.6 million tonnes were produced in December, but licenses were issued for 14 million tonnes.

If you were to delve properly into this system, you would expose something that is hotter than any "Irangate." The same pandemonium exists in the allocation of oil fields—to this very day licenses are signed by people who have nothing to do with it. After all, the right to hand over oil fields for development has been transferred—by the decree—to the local organs of administration and the West Siberian State Committee for Geology and the Exploitation of Mineral Resources.

Therefore I have issued an order to repeal all licenses issued within the last year. We will carry out a review of the fields. Only those enterprises which are really capable of developing them with a high level of efficiency will have the right to do so. The principle is simple: If you cannot do it, we will give it to others, including Western partners.

The delicacy of this situation lies in the fact that some oil generals have got used to considering the fields as their own property so conflicts are inevitable.

[Yefimov] In my opinion, they have already begun. The order granting the "Regul" joint-stock firm exclusive rights to develop the southern part of Talinskoye oil and gas field provoked a storm of indignation in the "Krasnoleninskneftegaz" Association.

[Shafranik] First, there can be no talk of any kind of sell-off. The fields are transferred for a definite period established by the contracting sides. Second, according to the agreement, the company had to invest $100 million into the development of the field over two years and in the long-term to build a polypropylene plant in Nyagan. The company also pledged to finance the oblast's development program. We could have the first $5 million already this year and resolve one of the top priority problems—to purchase a wonderful West German shop for the production of medicines. These would suffice not only for Tyumen but also for other regions of Russia. Third, the company gave well founded guarantees that it would increase oil output, receiving for its own use only the proportion of hydrocarbon raw materials produced surplus to the project.

Unfortunately, fulfilling the agreement is suspended for the time being, although I am sure that the attraction of Western investment and the latest technology to our region is substantially more effective than the planning enthusiasm of the association which wants to preserve its monopoly on the oil field at all costs. Since the best means of defense is attack, Bolshevik sentiments about the alleged "selling-off of the fatherland," aimed at ordinary people, are being brought into play.

There are also other examples. Norway, nowadays a prosperous country producing more oil per capita than Russia, had 80 percent foreign capital 20 years ago. Then a program was developed, reducing this percentage to 40. Now they intend to increase it again to 50 percent, but for some reason we are afraid of allowing in even 10 percent of foreign capital. Though it is clear to everyone that investments are desperately needed both in Tyumen and in Russia. Foreign capital, working in any form in our country, will force our enterprises to get cracking and change their procedures, and the country's monopolists will finally have competitors.

New Mordovan Newspaper Published in Saransk

LD2502145492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] The first issue of DIRECT CONTACT [PRYAMOY KONTAKT], an independent weekly newspaper of the Mordovan people, has been published in Saransk. Addressing the readers, the editorial board notes that its aim is to cover the most important problems of the Mordovan diaspora, one of the largest in Russia. Particular attention will be drawn to established and new forms of Mordova's effective mutual action with other peoples. The publication's permanent language will be Russian, but it will also take account of readers' wishes. In certain cases, part may be published in English, Hungarian, Finnish, or Moksha.

International Affairs

Kravchuk on Disputes With Russia, CIS Armies

LD2602115492 Helsinki Suomen Yleisradio Network in Finnish 1000 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, who arrived in Finland this morning, said during an interview at the airport that he was very confident that disputes between Russia and Ukraine will be solved. Kravchuk believes that the dispute on the Black Sea Fleet will be solved, possibly next month.

The president of Ukraine said that he believes that the dispute will be solved at a meeting in Kiev around the 20th of next month. On the one hand the dispute depends on the committee working on the matter, while on the other it depends on what the two states, Russia and Ukraine, want. The president of Ukraine also believes that every member country of the Commonwealth of Independent States will form their own independent army. He did not view this as a special threat to the member countries of the CIS.

Leonid Kravchuk, together with four other CIS presidents, will sign the CSCE Final Act at the Finlandia Hall this afternoon.

Kravchuk Briefs Mitterrand on CIS Talks

LD2502221792 Moscow TASS in English 2118 GMT 25 Feb 92

[By unidentified UKRINFORM-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Kiev February 25 TASS—Ukrainian leader Leonid Kravchuk and French President Francois Mitterrand had a telephone conversation today.

During the friendly conversation, Kravchuk informed the French leader on the consultative meeting of representatives of the former Soviet republics held in Kiev.

He stressed meeting participants agreed to pay the foreign debt of the former Soviet Union. However, in the light of new realities there is need for correction of the debt payment mechanism.

Kravchuk conveyed the Ukrainian stand on this issue and noted the republic is working to find a way to correct the debt payment mechanism together with other states of the former Soviet Union.

A meeting of the "seven" representatives is scheduled for Friday [28 February], February 28, to consider the issue.

Ukraine would like to solve the issue in the interests of the former Soviet republics and creditors. Kravchuk also noted Ukraine hopes it will be able to completely pay its part of the debt as result of the current economic reforms.

In his turn, Mitterrand expressed understanding of the current economic difficulties in Ukraine and other CIS member-states and assured that France will contribute to the improvement of their economic situation.

He said the debts must be serviced with the help of a reliable mechanism which is to be elaborated. The French president did not exclude a possibility of introduction for a certain time of a moratorium on debt payment and stressed the certainty in the correctness and exactness of the servicing mechanism is needed.

Mitterrand expressed the hope Ukraine with its rich resources will be among the first to overcome economic difficulties.

Both presidents expressed mutual hopes for a meeting and continuation of telephone conversations in order to receive first- hand information on developments in their countries.

President Discusses Debt With German Official

LD2402212492 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1900 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] Issues of political and economic relations between Germany and Ukraine were discussed during a conversation today between Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk and Horst Kohler, secretary of state of the German Federal Finance Ministry. Leonid Kravchuk noted that relations with Germany are a priority for his country and that it is no accident that a German representative was the first ambassador in Ukraine. During the meeting, the former Soviet Union's foreign debt and ways of repaying it were examined.

NATO's Manfred Woerner Meets With Leaders

PM2602085692 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Sergey Tsikora report under the "Events and Comments" rubric: "Ukraine Sets Up Contacts With NATO"]

[Text] Kiev—Marshal of Aviation Ye. Shaposhnikov received a very unexpected telegram on the eve of the Armed Forces Day celebrations.

The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry sent an official note of protest addressed to the marshal concerning his television interview 18 February. The note says that the commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces "resorted to distorting Ukraine's position in respect of the Black Sea Fleet, claiming, among other things, that Ukraine is laying claim to the whole of this fleet."

In this connection, the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry's note says without beating around the bush that the utterances of the commander in chief relate to questions which, according to the decisions of the Commonwealth heads of state, should be examined only during talks between Ukraine and Russia. "The status of commander

in chief of the joint armed forces of several independent states," the document says, "places a commitment on him to refrain from any actions that may place into doubt his impartiality in carrying out his functions."

Against the backdrop of the latest friction with Marshal Ye. Shaposhnikov, it is interesting to note the contacts made by NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner; he visited Kiev 22-23 February, where he met with the president of the republic, the head of the Supreme Soviet, and the ministers of defense and foreign affairs. He started his meeting with journalists by making a statement in which he announced that "NATO respects Ukraine's sovereignty." Having said that the talks with the Ukrainian leadership were successful, M. Woerner explained that the aim of his visit to Kiev was to hold talks about "Ukraine joining the NATO Coordinating Council." The new contacts presuppose an honest exchange of information, consultations on security questions, and cooperation in the sphere of defense planning and technical progress. The main thing now, the NATO secretary general said, is to prevent nuclear weapons, as well as specialists and experts in this sphere, from dispersing.

"We do not know whether B. Yeltsin's plan has been implemented or that weapons are not aimed at American cities," Manfred Woerner went on to say. "But from our talks with Ukraine's leadership, we know that 50 percent of tactical nuclear weapons have already been withdrawn from its territory."

EC Delegation Studies Need for Western Aid

LD2602111592 Moscow TASS in English 1631 GMT 25 Feb 92

[By UKRINFORM-TASS correspondent Aleksey Petrunya]

[Text] Kiev February 25 TASS—A delegation of the commission of the European Community led by Commission Deputy Chairman Franz Andriessen, arrived in Kiev to study the situation in Ukraine and its concrete needs for aid from Western countries.

Today the delegation was received by president of Ukraine Leonid Kravchuk, who stressed the extreme importance for Ukraine to develop relations with the European Community. The republic seeks to enter into European structures and maintain good relations with all countries of Europe.

Andriessen was received also by prime minister Vitold Fokin who acquainted the guest with the economic situation in Ukraine and set forth the position of the republic vis a vis foreign debt.

Officials Discuss Russia

OW2502184892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1640 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Meeting on Tuesday [25 February] with EC Commission Vice-President Franz Andriessen, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said that the political situation in the Commonwealth of Independent States would depend to a considerable extent on developments in each of the CIS member countries. He described the present situation in Ukraine as stable but expressed regret that "in some other independent states political stability and mutual understanding of so high a level are yet a matter of the future."

Kravchuk said he believed the political situation in Russia had deteriorated after the rallies of February 23. That, he said, "cannot but alarm Ukraine inasmuch as the processes taking place in Russia will affect the Ukrainian situation too. My greatest problem today is how to help Russia at this difficult moment."

Describing economic relations within the CIS, the Ukrainian leader said his republic was willing to put them on a new foundation.

Fokin on Russian Rights to USSR Property

PM2502164992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Feb 92 First Edition p 2

[Nikolay Maslov report under the "Controversial Issue" rubric: "The Complexities of Division"]

[Text] Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitold Fokin has appealed to world financial circles to stop recognizing Russia's ownership rights to USSR property until this property is divided in practical terms.

The CIS Interstate Council has adopted a decision to suspend current operations by the USSR Bank for Foreign Economic Activity, and this has inflicted great damage to Ukraine's economic interests.

Gold reserves at home and abroad, as well as real estate and property abroad which belonged to the Soviet Union and of which other successor states are unaware, are being appropriated unilaterally.

Advocating equal rights in resolving these questions, the message goes on to note, Ukraine cannot agree to diktat by one country, regardless of the potential it may have at its disposal. Therefore, Ukraine is making the following appeal to world financial circles:

To set aside 16.37 percent of the total debt owed by the former USSR in convertible currency in order to assist Ukraine in repaying its share of the debt;

To give Ukraine's National Bank and Export-Import Banks an opportunity to take part in all types of financial operations on the world market so that it can promptly honor its commitments in servicing its debts to promote the development of market economy in Ukraine; to recognize Ukraine's ownership rights to 16.37 percent of all categories of assets on the territory of the former USSR and abroad.

National Affairs

'Information Blockade' of Moscow Radio Programs

LD2502201292 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in Russian 1225 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] Out of 52 letters we received this week, eight were from Ukraine. All of them complain that there has been a sharp deterioration in the reception quality of our radio station since 1 February. In addition, the youth channel—the Yunost radio station from Moscow—has almost completely disappeared from the air waves in Ukraine. Listeners are asking what is happening? How is this information blockade to be explained? I will try to reply.

As is known, Ukraine has declared all of the radio transmitting resources in its territory to be its own property—notwithstanding that they were built with the resources of the former Soviet Union. It has started using these resources in part for relaying its own radio transmissions. We have had to start looking for alternative transmitters and relay stations in other parts of the CIS, to recalculate the cost of leasing them, and to change many frequencies. As a result of this very complex work it has been possible to maintain good reception for our programs in the main broadcasting areas, but the residents of the Ukraine and the southern and southwestern areas of the CIS have unfortunately been left without such opportunities.

Listeners to our programs are not the only ones cut off. We have learned from your letters that Ukraine has virtually stopped relaying other programs from Moscow: Radio 1, Mayak, Radio Rossii, and the Youth Channel. Can one call this a deliberate information blockade? I do not know—perhaps one can. Well, I am able to confirm that our listeners are complaining about the violation of their civil rights in the form of the artificial restriction of their freedom to receive any information, as is established in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights—many letters from Ukraine state this. For our own part we cannot do anything to help yet because we have no intention of interfering in the internal affairs of a sovereign state. I can therefore only express my sympathy for our Ukrainian listeners and recommend that they approach their local authorities and communications bodies on this matter. The radio program feeder lines, transmitters, and relay stations are at their disposal.

New TV Program To Cover Government Activity

AU2102144692 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian No 7 (53), Feb 92 p 2

[Unattributed report on the creation of "Uryadovyy Visnyk" ["Governmental Bulletin"] weekly television program: "See 'Uryadovyy Visnyk'"]

[Text] A governmental resolution has been adopted on the creation of the weekly television program "Uryadovyy Visnyk." Its objective is to inform the public about the activity of the government and other organs of state administration that is directed toward normalizing the economy and reforming it on the basis of market relations and toward improving the social protection of the population.

Official Discusses Fuel Supply Problems

AU2502173592 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian No 8 (54), Feb 92 p 5

[Report on interview with Mykola Shablovskyy, deputy chairman of the Ukrainian State Committee for the Provision of Petroleum Products, by Leonid Samsonenko: "Russia Has Agreed to Supply Oil to Ukraine. In Exchange for Sugar and Meat"]

[Text] Against the background of the general shortages of commodities, the shortage of fuel in Ukraine has long been "the talk of the town." Hardly any planting or harvesting campaigns could proceed without practically introducing martial law with regard to the distribution of the available gasoline, oil, or diesel fuel. Things are getting even worse: Recently the capital's communication workers were unable to deliver freshly printed newspapers to bookstalls and bakers could not deliver bread to shops.

According to Mykola Shablovsky, deputy chairman of the Ukraine State Committee for the Provision of Petroleum Products, the fuel crisis is a result of reduced oil production in the Ukrainian oil fields and chronic shortfalls of oil and finished petroleum products from our traditional suppliers in Russia and Belarus. For example, over the last year alone Ukrainian oil refineries received about five million tonnes of oil less than scheduled for processing. The situation could improve if this volume of petroleum products was supplied by those other republics. In 1991, however, out of the 2 million tonnes of gasoline stipulated in interstate agreements, about 900,000 tonnes remained undelivered to Ukraine. The situation with regard to petroleum products became aggravated further as a result of mass shortfalls of coal, forcing greater reliance on fuel oil to satisfy the needs of Ukrainian power engineering. The fuel oil crisis is more dangerous than the one involving gasoline. If there is even a slight disruption in fuel oil deliveries to our power plants, the republic's energy supply network will collapse. For that reason, the priority in fuel oil supplies has been given to power engineering. One can only guess how they are going to provide the people of the republic with heating and lighting while there is a general crisis in the economy!

The oil producers of Russia explain the shortfalls in their deliveries by the overall decrease in oil production. This was referred to when Russian officials began to retroactively rewrite the interstate agreements recently concluded with Ukraine on oil and petroleum products. For example, out of the 40 million tonnes of oil that had been agreed upon, Russia only provided 15.1 million. Ukraine will have to buy the remaining 17.9 million tonnes from

oil producers on the basis of barter trade. Out of 2,700,000 tonnes of diesel oil, 500,000 tonnes more will have to be purchased. Things are even more complicated with regard to fuel oil: Out of 4,600,000 tonnes scheduled, only 600,000 tonnes are guaranteed. Russia has also made the terms with other supplies more difficult. For example, 600,000 out of 2,000,000 tonnes of gasoline are to be acquired through barter. According to Mykola Shablovskyy, purchasing on the barter basis also implies, in addition to paying with rubles, the need to deliver materials, technology, and foodstuffs. Oil producers are particularly fond of sugar, flour, grain, and meat. Of course, no one can forbid monopolists to live the good life, especially when rubles are worth nothing.

The changing moods of Russian oil officials make the life of specialists at the petroleum committee difficult: They are unable to adjust the real balance between production and availability of petroleum products. As a result, consumers have no idea what to expect tomorrow. Oil refineries are also at the crossroads: While there are clients from elsewhere, there is no information about Ukrainian ones.

Shablovskyy believes that presently the Ukrainian consumer has no chance for autonomous survival unless Russia supplies energy. In this case, a question arises: How should Ukraine act now and in the future to avoid a situation in which an energy shortage may strangle Ukrainian independence? Shablovskyy believes that these questions must be resolved at the highest level by Ukrainian and Russian leaders. First of all, it is necessary to agree on the inviolability of interstate agreements. Let us recall that, in the traditions of international business, the keeping of one's word is the pledge of success. Once we have embarked upon the road toward a free market, we must learn this type of conduct. The agreements must, undoubtedly, be supported by a balance of economic interests. In this case, everything not covered by this balance must be obtained through imports. Everything must be taken into account in the balance of interests, from transit shipments of gas, oil, and petroleum products through Ukrainian territory to a realistic price for oil. It is also necessary to examine the tariffs for exports of petroleum products via Odessa. On this alone, Ukraine can earn about four or five million tonnes of oil. a policy of strict economy is also very promising. This can only be achieved through the introduction of single tariffs for the sale of gasoline by both state and private consumers.

In the opinion of specialists at the petroleum committee, it is also necessary to inventory our own energy resources and develop them. The wells near Poltava, Okhtyrka, Shebelinka, and Boryslav which have been closed down conceal appreciable reserves of oil. Besides, Ukraine must also be ready for oil imports. The Odessa oil transshipment complex is presently oriented toward exports and not imports. Moreover, it is located within the boundaries of the city and cannot be reequipped or reconstructed. Ukrainian oil specialists believe that a new complex must be built.

The petroleum committee was recently replaced by Ukrainian Oil and Chemistry, [Ukrnaftokhim] a state company, which will have to resolve the questions raised in this interview.

Difficulties Reported at Largest Shipyard

LD2502122992 Moscow Mayak Radio in Russian 2200 GMT 19 Feb 92

[Text] The collapse of the Union has placed the Ukraine's largest shipyard, the Chernomorskiy Sudostroitelnyy Zavod association, in a difficult situation. It work force has been left with the unfinished aircraft-carrying cruiser Varyag and other military orders on its hands. It will be harder to turn them into civilian vessels because the berth where this could be done is occupied.

Financing from the Russian and Ukrainian Governments has dried up, so work on military orders has been suspended indefinitely, says (Ivan Vinnick), the association's deputy general director. These ships ought to be converted, but a lot of money is needed and for the time being none of the sovereign states is prepared to provide it. The Ukrainian Government has set up a commission to investigate. First and foremost, supplies of materials have to be sorted out. Abroad, major enterprises like ours are in the state sector. Their supplies have to be centrally organized. The management is trying to retain valuable workers and to put its production facilities to use. It has signed a contract with a foreign company to build three tankers, and construction of large trawlers with refrigeration facilities continues.

Specialists believe that the next two or three months will be the most difficult for the Nikolayev shipbuilders.

Moldova

New Trade Agreement Signed With Romania

LD1602165192 Moscow TASS in English 0656 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Text] Kishinev February 16 TASS—A long-term trade agreement, envisaging a new mechanism of relationships, has been concluded between Moldova and Romania.

Previously, bilateral contacts had the form of direct barter exchanges balanced out within the framework in a leu credit granted by the Romanian Government for the delivery of consumer goods in exchange for rawstuffs and materials from Moldova.

From now on, trade exchanges will be carried out in convertible currency at world prices and under direct contracts concluded by economic agents.

It is also planned to conclude a treaty with Romania on the establishment of a free exchange zone, with the annulment of customs duties.

International rules for free trade and customs unions and the most-favoured-nation treatment principles will be taken into account during the establishment of such a zone.

Snegur Discusses Army, Currency, Unification

AU2602172992 Bucharest ADEVARUL in Romanian 19 Feb 92 p 1, 6

[Interview with President Mircea Snegur by Bogdan Chirieac; place and date not given: "Moldova Is Creating Its Currency and Army"]

[Text] [Chirieac] Mr. President, what documents signed in Minsk are the most important for Moldova?

[Snegur] What is very important for us are the resolutions referring to the resumption of economic relations among the Commonwealth of Independent States. Recently, especially in January, these relations suffered a great deal. We signed the accords on the use of a joint energy system and on coordinating actions in rail transportation. Another statement was adopted stipulating the principles of action within the CIS. In connection with the military questions, Moldova did not participate in all discussions because we want to create our own armed forces. Consequently, we did not participate in discussions on the strategic area and the creation of the joint command of the Armed Forces.

[Chirieac] In Minsk your position was very close to that of Ukraine President Leonid Kravchuk. Do you maintain friendly relations with him?

[Snegur] I should say so. As a matter of fact, the Kravchuk-Snegur axis was felt at that meeting.

[Chirieac] Moldova wants to have its own army. When are you going to create it?

[Snegur] As soon as possible. Negotiations with the chiefs of the Moscow command in this respect are drawing to a close. It is possible that an accord will be signed by the end of February.

[Chirieac] What will the Moldovan Army be like and what are you going to do with the Soviet troops still deployed in Moldova?

[Snegur] The Moldovan Army will not be very large. It will be a smaller force than the Soviet troops presently deployed in our country (some 20,000 soldiers). It will consist mainly of professionals, who will periodically instruct the younger troops. The army will be strictly a defensive force. As far as the resident Soviet troops are concerned, they will have the status of a foreign army on the territory of a sovereign country. We hope, however, that after our current negotiations they will definitively withdraw within a year.

[Chirieac] Mr. President, what is your position on reunification with Romania?

[Snegur] At this point, all our thoughts are turned to confirming the independence of the Republic of Moldova. I think that the best solution is the existence of two Romanian states. We favor strengthening cultural and economic relations with our sister country. We will probably sign an agreement soon in this respect. This does not mean that there are no differing opinions. The opposition would want to speed up the unification process, something not supported by the majority of the republic's people. Thus, my idea is to strengthen our independence.

[Chirieac] Soon you will introduce the national currency, the Moldovan leu. Since you have no hard currency reserves, what assets do you have to support it?

[Snegur] Indeed, we hope that in 1992 we will have the Moldovan leu. As for assets to support it, this concerns us as well, particularly since the new currency has to be correlated with our patrimony and riches.

[Chirieac] The leaders of the self-proclaimed Dniester and Gagauz Republics have proposed a federation or confederation with the Republic of Moldova. Do you view this as something feasible?

[Snegur] No. This is nonsense. It is an initiative of the local leaders who want to preserve their positions. The solution we have proposed refers to the creation of free trade zones in the areas in question. Anyway, even if this is going to be a long process, we want to seek a solution by exclusively peaceful means.

[Chirieac] Have you noted any support for Transdniester from Russia and Ukraine?

[Snegur] Not open support, but covertly. Not by Yeltsin himself, but by the chauvinistic elements in Russia. These phantom republics, however, have emerged under his influence.

[Chirieac] As far as the Gagauz people are concerned, do you believe that they enjoy the support of Turkey?

[Snegur] Absolutely not. They are just imitating what the Transdniestrians are doing.

[Chirieac] Mr. President, what are your relations with former Prime Minister Mircea Druc?

[Snegur] Actually, the two of us have no relations. Our views are different. He changes his point of view very often, especially regarding the economic reform. Even when we worked together, I always had the feeling that he was ill-disposed toward me.

[Chirieac] You are leaving for the United States where you will meet with President Bush. Will you have an American embassy in Chisinau?

[Snegur] I think so. This question was already discussed with James Baker when he visited. President Bush just has to confirm this. Very soon we will establish diplomatic relations with the United States.

Presidential Decree Issued on Cabinet Reshuffle

AU2502215292 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 2031 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Chisinau, ROMPRES, 25/2/1992—Through a decree of the president of the Republic of Moldova, Mrs. Eugenia Mihailova was appointed as minister of labor and social protection of that republic.

Eugenia Mihailova is the first woman minister in the Republic of Moldova's Government.

The Ministry of Trade and Material Resources was created by the merging of the former Ministries of Trade and of Material Resources. Its minister was appointed Tudor Slanina who had previously been chairman of the Consumer Cooperatives Republican Union.

The Ministry of Youth, Sports and Tourism was also set up the minister of which is Petru Sandulache, former secretary of state under the republic's president.

Defense Ministry Appeals to Officers, Soldiers

AU2502204792 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1841 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 25/2/1992—MOLDOVA-PRES informs that the Defence Ministry of the Republic of Moldova addressed an appeal to officers, non-commissioned officers and all the military on the territory of that republic which underscores the complex period their country is in now and which appreciates that the political, juridical and economic premises have been created for the Republic of Moldova to get its state sovereignty and real independence. To this end it shows that the national army of the Republic of Moldova will be created on the basis of the military units and subunits of the former Soviet Army on the republic's territory. To disperse the fears and feelings of worry of the military and of their relatives the appeal specifies that they guaranteed, according to the law, legal and social protection, the right to remain on the republic's territory or to go to other republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States, in keeping with the inter-republic understandings.

After the military units have passed under Moldova's jurisdiction and after the military have sworn to the legal authorities of the republic, the appeal concludes, the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Moldova will deal with all the problems concerning officers and conscripts. The appeal calls the military to stay calm, not to answer provocations and to fulfill their military obligations.

Military Officers To Decide Where To Serve

LD2502124592 Moscow TASS in English 1109 GMT 25 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau, February 25 TASS—"In keeping with an agreement concluded among CIS nations, the Moldovan Defence Ministry guarantees legal and social protection to every serviceman, irrespective of nationality, rank or position, as well as to members of their families," says the ministry's address to officers and men of the Soviet army, now deployed on the territory of the republic. The document was published here today.

It notes, specifically, that every officer or petty officer has the right to decide himself whether he wants or not to serve in the Moldovan armed forces, now being formed in the republic. In case he chooses to serve in the Moldovan armed forces, he will retain his present position and military rank, and his service record will not be interrupted.

Men wishing to serve in other Commonwealth states shall be transferred there in a centralised way on the basis of an agreement with the CIS military command.

Kazakhstan

State's Possession of Nuclear Weapons Viewed

PM2602111592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Feb 92 p 2

[Interview with Candidate of Historical Sciences Burkutbay Gelmanovich Ayaganov, chief of the public opinion research and sociological forecasting sector of the apparatus of the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan, by correspondent Colonel A. Ladin; date, place not given: "Kazakhstan and Nuclear Weapons"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] The newspaper KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA recently has published articles the authors of which give their own justification for the need for the continued presence of Strategic Nuclear Forces on the territory of an independent state: The Republic of Kazakhstan. One of the authors—Candidate of Historical Sciences Burkutbay Gelmanovich Ayaganov, chief of the public opinion research and sociological forecasting sector of the apparatus of the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan—was asked by our correspondent to answer certain questions.

[Ladin] You believe that nuclear weapons must remain in Kazakhstan, and not only because moving high-yield nuclear devices is an extremely complex process at present...

[Ayaganov] Yes, I expressed my opinion that as a nuclear power, Kazakhstan will be able to be an equal among other sovereign states. That is the first thing. It also must be borne in mind that with its geographical position, our independent state is, as it were, a bridge linking East and West, and is doomed to remain surrounded by three powerful forces. I mean Russia, billion-plus China, and also the Muslim East, where the nuclear weapons already created by someone or other are being talked about openly. It seems to me that Kazakhstan will always feel safer with nuclear-tipped strategic missiles on its territory than without them. At the same time it must be stressed that we must have the minimal number of nuclear warheads to guarantee defense sufficiency because we do not intend to fight anybody. The Kazakh people's ancient history, however, teaches them to look after their own security, which today means reliably protecting the republic's entire multiethnic people from any surprises.

[Ladin] The articles, yours included, propose that Kazakhstan become a member of the nuclear club. Should this be understood as meaning that the republic must insist on individual possession of part of the nuclear potential? That is, possession of its own button at some time in the future?

[Ayaganov] If this is the aim, then obviously the republic must be prepared to bear a considerable burden of military expenditure. I do not have enough information to claim that this is possible, but I believe that it is technically complex. Moreover, the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons signed by the former Soviet Union must be taken into account as well, and as is known from statements made by our country's president, Nursultan Abishevich Nazarbayev, Kazakhstan will fulfill the treaty.

This is what I think: Together with Russia and the other CIS members, we must without fail preserve the single defense area. Strategic nuclear weapons will be located on Kazakh territory within the framework of this area. In time they could be subject to reduction and possibly complete elimination, but only with regard to similar steps being taken by all states possessing nuclear weapons. I know, based on the study of public opinion in the republic, that a considerable proportion [nemalaya chast] of our population adheres to this viewpoint, although there are people who would like to see Kazakhstan without nuclear weapons, agreeing with the view that they should be removed to Russia.

It seems to me that it is not at all obligatory for each state to aspire to its own nuclear button.

In the agreement between the CIS members on strategic forces, everyone who signed the document in Minsk recognizes the need for the joint [obyedinennyy] command of the strategic forces and for retaining unified [yedinyy] command over the former USSR's nuclear weapons and other types of mass-destruction weapons. Moreover, the agreement on joint measures regarding nuclear weapons which was concluded in Alma-Ata by the four independent states possessing the former USSR's nuclear weapons states that prior to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons on the territories of Belarus and Ukraine, the decision on the need to use them is made by the Russian president in conjunction with the heads of the states participating in the agreement on the basis of the procedures jointly elaborated by the participating states. Thus far all this is immutable and acceptable.

It will be another matter when nuclear weapons remain only on Russian and Kazakh territory. I believe that in that case a new, bilateral agreement must be concluded between our states which would strengthen each side's responsibility for making decisions on nuclear weapons [kotoroye usililo by otvetstvennost kazhdoy storony za prinyatiye resheniy po yadernomu oruzhiyu].

[Ladin] Probably the question also will arise of how Russia and Kazakhstan are to ensure the combat readiness of nuclear weapons, and their safekeeping in the future...

[Ayaganov] Of course, the whole range of questions will have to be solved jointly. It is understood that if other nuclear club partners do not want to proceed to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, then what can we do? Act appropriately, without forgoing our own security; that is what I believe. I would like the military alliance between Kazakhstan and Russia, and also other

of the Union's former republics that are committed to the idea of a single defense area, to remain strong and reliable.

[Ladin] Do you not think that in time the question of modernizing nuclear weapons will have to be faced, which also means the question of the need to carry out at least occasional testing of them? Where, however, can this be done? If only Russia and Kazakhstan keep nuclear weapons, then evidently it will be only here, in Russia and Kazakhstan, and possibly also at those very same test sites, that are now silent

[Ayaganov] There will indeed be a problem. Although I am no military man I am well aware that any weapon has a purpose if it represents a threat to an adversary, and it is worthless when it loses this quality. Of course, the best thing would be for the world to reach agreement and rid itself of the nuclear danger forever.

However, it is entirely possible that test site testing will indeed be required. I would like to stress that in that case the holding of the tests must be accompanied by thorough expert study. The tests must not harm people or the environment.

I very much hope that the process of disarmament will achieve its main aim and that nuclear weapons will cease to exist forever.

IMF Experts Visit; Membership Possible

LD2502143692 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Text] The entry of Kazakhstan into the IMF is becoming increasingly realistic. After a series of familiarization visits of IMF experts [words indistinct] to the republic, practical work has been started by major IMF specialists. In particular, there is currently a delegation of technical assistance, headed by [name indistinct], director of the Statistics Department, staying in Alma-Ata. The members have organized a two-week seminar for staff of the State Statistics Committee, technical institutes, teachers of the Kazakhstan State University, and bank staff. The specialists are conducting each day theoretical and practical courses and are replying to numerous questions from the students. After the end of the seminar, there is to be an official meeting with representatives of interested departments determining Kazakhstan's balance of payments, annual contributions, and corresponding (?payments) which can be allocated to the republic by the IMF.

Officials Have 'Differences' in PRC Talks

LD2502210592 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1455 GMT 25 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Kashirov]

[Text] Beijing, 25 Feb (TASS)—Official talks between S.A. Tereshchenko, prime minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and Li Peng, prime minister of the PRC State Council, were held in the Great Hall of the People this evening in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding. The heads of governments of both countries examined questions of further developing cooperation in economy, trade, science and technology, and other fields. An exchange of views on a number of international problems of mutual interest also was held.

After the completion of the talks, which lasted more than an hour, the Kazakh prime minister did not tell the ITAR-TASS correspondent anything specific about the dialogue that took place. Taking part in it were leading figures and specialists on both sides in the fields of foreign trade, foreign economic ties, foreign policy, railroad transport, and civil aviation. Tereshchenko confined himself to noting that "the Kazakh delegation had prepared for signing the drafts of seven documents, including a joint Kazakhstan-PRC communique. There are differences regarding some of the documents. If it is possible to settle them, then we will be able to sign all seven documents, but, if not, we will be able to sign five, which is not bad, either."

The prime minister of Kazakhstan stated that the sides had reached accords on the opening of embassies in Alma-Ata and Beijing. The PRC's charge d'affaires ad interim in the Republic of Kazakhstan already is in Alma-Ata. Thus, the opening of the Kazakh Embassy in the Chinese capital is imminent.

Tereshchenko will have meetings and conversations tomorrow morning with PRC President Yang Shangkun and CPC General Secretary Jiang Zemin. In the afternoon, following the Kazakh prime minister's news conference for local and foreign journalists, the Kazakh-Chinese documents will be signed.

In the evening, Tereshchenko and his party will depart on a fact-finding tour to the town of Dalian in northeast China. From there they will return home via Urumqi, the administrative center of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

Armenia

Supreme Soviet Meets on Nagorno-Karabakh

LD2502192492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1842 GMT 25 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 25 February (TASS)—The Supreme Soviet of Armenia met in special session behind closed doors in Yerevan this evening. Journalists have learned that the members of parliament are discussing the critical situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, against whose Armenian population the Azerbaijani side has unleashed a full-scale war, using modern weaponry.

The session was called at the initiative of Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, who explained to the deputies the approach of the republic's leadership to a peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh crisis. No information about the session has been circulated.

Territorial Claims Denied

LD2402141692 Moscow TASS in English 1344 GMT 25 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Stork]

[Text] Paris February 25 TASS—"We have done all in our power to avoid the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan," President Levon Ter-Petrosyan of Armenia said in an interview published by the French newspaper LE FIGARO today.

According to Ter-Petrosyan, Yerevan wants to do all it can to prevent the Nagorno-Karabakh problem from being considered as resulting from confrontation between Armenians and Azerbaijanis.

The Armenian president said allegations that Armenia has territorial claims with respect to Azerbaijan were false through and through. There is no point in presenting the conflict as religious or inter-ethnic. The only problem that does exist today is the problem of Nagorno-Karabakh's self-determination, he stressed.

"We will accept any solution to which the people of Nagorno- Karabakh agree," he said.

Along with this, Armenia has no intention to recognise the so- called "Nagorno-Karabakh Republic", because "this step would have provided ground for charging Armenia with interference in the internal affairs of another state and be construed as an act of provocation".

"However, we are striving to have the new state recognised by the world community," Ter-Petrosyan said.

He said the Armenian leadership had already held talks on the matter with some foreign countries which responded with "certain promises".

Commenting on Armenia's military strategy, Ter-Petrosyan said his country had no plans for building its own armed forces. "Our borders with Turkey and Iran are guarded by military contingents of the Commonwealth armed forces," he noted. "As regards the border with Georgia, it is open fully. On the whole, according to the Armenian president, the republic favors Commonwealth army presence on its territory.

Ter-Petrosyan noted with satisfaction that President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation favors sending a peace-keeping force to Nagorno-Karabakh.

He said an agreement has been reached in principle to establish diplomatic relations with Turkey before the beginning of summer.

President Delays Trip

OW2502191392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1640 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan delayed his trip to Finland, scheduled for February 25, at which he was to sign an agreement of the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, due to worsening conditions in Nagorno-Karabakh, the press center of the Armenian President told Interfax.

According to the press center Ter-Petrosyan will visit Helsinki "another time, in more peaceful times".

Leaders of Belarus, Moldova, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan left for Helsinki Tuesday [25 February] to sign the Helsinki Act.

Azerbaijan Accused of Arms Seizure in Agdam

MK2602093092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Feb 92 pp 1,3

[Armen Khanbabyan report under the general heading: "War: Armenian Leadership Accuses Azerbaijan of State Terrorism. Nothing of the Sort, Baku Replies"]

[Text] Circles close to the Armenian supreme leadership have assessed as an act of state terrorism the seizure of a dump containing military hardware and ammunition in Agdam 24 February. This assessment is based on information in their possession to the effect that Rzayev, Azerbaijan deputy defense minister, was personally in charge of seizing the dump. According to Armenian Defense Ministry information, the command of the CIS is not yet making any attempts to return the seized property and arms. According to available information, the TNT equivalent of the munitions in Agdam is approaching eight megatonnes. This amount of arms—if they can be used—is enough to destroy the whole Transcaucasus. It was mainly firearms and a considerable quantity of "Grad" ["Hail"] shells that were seized. These installations are already sited in all areas adjacent

to Nagorno-Karabakh and, what is more, in Kelbadzharskiy Rayon bordering on Armenia's Goriskiy Rayon. After the dump was captured the "Grad's" were fired fully loaded—40 shells each.

The traditional pattern of army operations in the conflict zone is for troops to withdraw leaving weapons and, what is more, the scale of the action in Agdam and the absence of any retaliation from servicemen makes you think that the word "seizure" is a kind of euphemism indicating a amicable agreement, at fairly high level.

The weapons will be used against self-defense detachments, and the peaceful population of Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia is preparing to take a number of political steps in connection with this situation, lodging protests with the leadership of CIS countries and foreign powers. As you know, Armenia attended the Minsk conference and was one of the countries that agreed to join the structure of the Combined Armed Forces. If the CIS troop command does not react to what has happened—and quite drastically—the military agreement secured with such difficulty will be in jeopardy since none of the members of the military community will henceforth be sure that there are real guarantees of their security.

President Defuses Tension at 21 Feb Rally

PM2502143792 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Feb 92 p 2

[Armen Khanbabyan report: "The Armenian President Calls for Peace"]

[Text] Yerevan—At least 50,000 people gathered on 21 February in Freedom Square in Yerevan to take part in a rally organized by the Armenian All-National Movement to mark the fourth anniversary of the beginning of the struggle of the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh for their rights.

The rally was addressed by republic President L. Ter-Petrosyan. He noted in particular that the Armenian leadership supports a peaceful, civilized solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh problem. However, there are forces in Armenia which at this difficult time are seeking to destabilize the situation. This is increasing the danger of war in the region and threatens to undermine the process of consolidating society around the common goal: solving complex socioeconomic tasks.

L. Ter-Petrosyan acknowledged that many grievous miscalculations and mistakes have been made by the present authorities on the road toward achieving political independence and resolving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. At the same time he stressed that growing pains could not cancel out the real achievements or dampen the republic's desire to join the ranks of the civilized states. Among the main tasks L. Ter-Petrosyan cited the normalization of relations with Azerbaijan, the building of a rule-of-law, democratic state, and the acceleration of transition to a socially-orientated market economy.

There were several tense moments during the rally when advocates of the opposition Association of National Self-Determination tried to interrupt the president's speech with shouts and whistles. However, L. Ter-Petrosyan, like the seasoned and experienced campaigner he is, did not flinch on this occasion either, and calmly brought his speech to an end and left the rostrum to the ecstatic applause of his supporters. It was in many ways thanks to this that the rally ended peacefully.

Kuwaiti Finance Minister Arrives for Talks

LD2502094192 Moscow TASS in English 0641 GMT 25 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan February 25 TASS—Kuwait sent a delegation to Armenia to boost trade, economic and scientific cooperation with the former Soviet republic in Transcaucasia. It is also ready to allocate funds to social and economic development of Armenia, according to Kuwaiti Finance Minister Nasir 'Abdallah al-Ridan, the head of the delegation.

Armenia is interested in cooperating with the Arab states, including Kuwait, Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan said welcoming the delegation. In its foreign policy the Republic is to take into consideration the general problems of the Middle East countries, he added.

Diplomatic Relations Established With France

LD2402145192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1248 GMT 24 Feb 92

[By ARMENPRESS-TASS correspondent Loris Gukasyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 24 Feb (TASS)—Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Ovannisyan and Bernard Kouchner, secretary of state to the French prime minister in charge of humanitarian action, exchanged notes today establishing diplomatic relations between the two states. B. Kuchner is leaving Yerevan for Nagorno-Karabakh, where he intends to discuss with the local authorities the possibilities of establishing "humanitarian corridors" so that military actions, which are being carried out there, do not hamper the supply of food and medicine into this region.

Nuclear Power Station Given 33 Million Rubles

LD1302000892 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1836 GMT 12 Feb 92

[From the "Domestic Market" section]

[Text]—The government of the republic allocated R [rubles] 33 mln [million] only for the first quarter of this year for work at the Armenian nuclear power station according to the information received on February 11 at the press center of the Armenian Government. This data

was revealed during the session of the Armenian Supreme Soviet Finance and Budgetary Commission by the republic's Minister of Finance Janik Janoyan. The two-volume conclusion of the French experts concerning the possibility of opening the Armenian nuclear power station begins with the words: No government would assume the responsibility for giving permission to the operation of the nuclear power station which is in the condition similar to the condition of the Armenian nuclear power station.

Vneshekonombank of Armenia To Become Commercial

OW1802005092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1950 GMT 17 Feb 92

[From the 18 February "Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Vneshekonombank of Armenia is to be reorganized as an independent, share-holding commercial and international bank. This information was passed to INTERFAX at an interview with the Chairman of the Board of the Vneshekonombank of Armenia, Mr Samvel Chzimachyan. He claimed that a number of foreign and Armenian companies have expressed their interest in becoming founders of the bank. It is likely that these will also include the Armenian government. The projected authorized capital of the Vneshekonombank is 45-50 million rubles and $2-2.5 million.

Mr Chzimachyan also made the point that the rate of the dollar to the ruble in Armenia had recently fallen to 110 rubles/$1. He explained this by the increasing shortage of cash rubles among the population. Mr Chzimachyan predicted that this trend in the ruble rate would continue.

Poll Shows Majority Supports President

LD1902010492 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1526 GMT 18 Feb 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Yerevan—The majority of Yerevan residents positively assess the first 100 days of Levon Ter-Petrosyan's activity as Armenian president.

Gevork Pogosyan, director of the Center of Sociological Studies, told PF [POSTFACTUM] correspondent that sociological poll they conducted, attracted 1,200 people—representatives of various social strata of Yerevan. To the question: Are you sure that the president will be able to take us out of the crisis? The following answers were obtained:

Yes—37.6 percent, not quite—29.9 percent,
No—20.4 percent, don't know—11.9 percent.

The unbiased data reaffirm the results of the poll: for the last two months Armenia, as an independent state, got recognition by some 100 large and small states and joined major international organizations, including the UN. Armenia was the first republic out of the former Union republics to establish diplomatic relations with the United States and other countries and to open the American Embassy.

Pogosyan remarked that comparison of this poll's results with those of September 1991, allows the conclusion that there are no principal changes in Armenian populations' confidence to the new leaders and to the president which, according to Pogosyan, is the guarantee of political stability in Armenia. The only thing which all those polled came out for was more openness. Armenian residents wish to know about their leader and his entourage at least as much as about Russian and American presidents.

Subsistence Level Lower Than European Standard

LD2402110592 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1800 GMT 23 Feb 92

[Text] According to informed sources, after the first stage of price liberalization, the subsistence minimum in Armenia was estimated at 1,450 rubles and the average consumer basket was estimated at 8,280 rubles. The sum needed to sustain a living standard comparable to that of European states is 20,400 rubles.

Azerbaijan

Iran Mediates Cease-Fire in Nagorno-Karabakh

LD2602091192 Moscow TASS in English 0757 GMT 26 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Kuzmin]

[Text] Tehran February 26 TASS—The Armenian and Azerbaijani sides of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict will observe cease-fire for 25 hours. This agreement was reached on Tuesday [25 February] as a result of five-hour talks between Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Azerbaijani President Ayaz Mutalibov, a representative of the Iranian delegation staying in Baku told the IRNA News Agency.

At the request of Armenia and Azerbaijan, Iran became an intermediary in the settlement of the armed conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh. Velayati arrived in Baku on Monday night together with the Iranian delegation he is leading.

He will go to Yerevan today, where he will hold talks with Armenian leaders. The cease-fire which comes into force at 0900, local time, on February 26 will enable Velayati to continues his quest for ways to put an end to Armenian-Azerbaijani armed clashes, the Iranian news agency points out.

Further on Cease-Fire

LD2502173392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] [Announcer] Following the completion of a five-hour round of talks held behind closed doors between our Foreign Minister Velayati and President Mutalibov and Prime Minister Gasanov of Azerbaijan, an official close to the negotiating teams said: In order to prepare the ground for subsequent efforts by our country's foreign minister to resolve the differences between Azerbaijan and Armenia, the officials of those two countries have agreed to establish a full 25-hour cease-fire in the disputed region, beginning at 0900 on 26 February.

Please listen to a report on the meeting between Velayati and representatives of the Azerbaijani parliament which our colleague dispatched moments ago.

[Unidentified correspondent] During the meeting, Elmira Kafarova, chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet, said that the Islamic Republic of Iran has assumed a major and a very grave mission. She then said: All the parliamentarians of Azerbaijan feel the goodwill of the Islamic Republic of Iran. They attach a high value to your mediation role. She added: We parliamentarians will put all our intellectual and physical resources at the disposal of the Iranian delegation to solve the dispute. We wish you success.

Offering his congratulations once again to the Azerbaijan Majlis representatives and to the people on the occasion of Azerbaijan gaining independence, Velayati said: Since your country achieved independence, the Islamic Republic of Iran has used all its efforts to promote the independence and rising power of Azerbaijan. However, the dispute between the two countries of Azerbaijan and Armenia gives cause for regret. These are two nations who have lived side by side for centuries but today they are afflicted by a dispute through the hidden hands of those who do not want these two nations to live independent and happy lives.

In conclusion, our country's foreign minister said: We will work hard to extinguish this seditious fire.

'Iranian Mercenaries' Rumor Denied

LD2502151492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1425 GMT 25 Feb 92

[By AZERINFORM correspondent Anar Kadirli—TASS]

[Text] Baku, 25 Feb (AZERINFORM-TASS)—"The problem of Nagorno-Karabakh should be settled only through peaceful means around the negotiating table, and Iran is willing to undertake the duties of mediator in halting this bloody war which no one needs to continue." 'Ali Akbar Velayati, head of the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran, made this statement today at a news conference held immediately after his conversation behind closed doors with Azerbaijani President Ayaz Mutalibov. The Iranian minister of foreign affairs is in the region at the invitation of the leaderships of Azerbaijan and Armenia.

According to 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian side proposed a number of effective and specific projects and measures to stabilize the situation in the region. The consent of both sides in the conflict is needed to implement them and we are counting on their goodwill, the minister stressed. He refuted rumors which have appeared in various foreign and Russian mass media alleging that Iranian mercenaries are fighting on the side of Azerbaijan in combat action in Nagorno-Karabakh.

This afternoon Velayati met Azerbaijani Prime Minister Gasan Gasanov and parliamentarians of the Republic. He is expected to fly to the conflict zone tomorrow to meet with representatives of the Azerbaijani and Armenian communities in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Stepanakert Shelled From Shusha 23 Feb

PM2502152592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Feb 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Viktor Litovkin report: "Nagorno-Karabakh: 'Hot' War and Propaganda War"]

[Text] Combat operations are continuing on the long-suffering soil of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The Nagorno-Karabakh Internal Affairs Administration has reported by telephone to an ITAR-TASS correspondent that the latest shelling of Stepanakert (Khankendy) from the direction of the Azerbaijani city of Shusha began at 0800 on Sunday 23 February. Three volleys were fired from a "Grad" launcher, each of 35 shells. Fires broke out in the city, and there is much destruction. It has not yet been possible to establish the precise number of people killed and injured because of the continuing shelling. Many casualties are buried under debris or in burning houses.

According to information from the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Supreme Soviet Press Service, the Azerbaijani side already has five "Grad" launchers, seized from units of the former Soviet Army. The Armenian side also maintains that not only the CIS Armed Forces but also Turkey and Iran are supplying the Azerbaijani army with rockets for artillery mounts.

According to an INTERFAX report, the same press service has reported that Azerbaijani President A. Mutalibov's meetings with Lieutenant General Yu. Gromov and Admiral V. Chernavin resulted in an accord on the transfer of a separate helicopter squadron, the Baku Officer School, and a large part of the former Soviet Army's rear combined units to the Azerbaijanis.

Let us remind you that Lt. Gen. Yu. Gromov is first deputy commander of the Transcaucasus Military District. He really has met with the president of Azerbaijan

and held difficult talks with him on the transfer of general-purpose units and subunits to the jurisdiction of the republic's leadership, as the Azerbaijani side demands in an ultimatum-like way.

But, as the general has told military correspondents, he has not yet received such an order from Moscow. If the order comes, they will carry it out, albeit on a condition on which officers of the Transcaucasus Military District insist—first their families and property will be removed from the region.

Meanwhile, the Azerbaijani Press Service has announced that Armenian troops, jointly with forces of the 7th and the 4th CIS Armies, have launched an offensive on Azerbaijani territory. The press service report points out that motorized units, including tanks, infantry fighting vehicles, and other combat hardware, are advancing through the territory of Tauzskiy, Lachinskiy, Kubatlinskiy, Zangelanskiy, and Fizulinskiy Rayons. The press service announced that the attackers are "destroying villages and wiping out the peaceful population in border regions of Azerbaijan and the Nagorno-Karabakh zone."

A report on the commencement of combat operations by Armenia appeared on 23 February the tapes of world news agencies—REUTER and AFP—citing the INTERFAX agency, the Azerbaijani ASSA-IRADA agency, and the Azerbaijani president's press service. At the same time the agencies cited the words of Ayaz Mutalibov, who called this "real aggression mounted with the support of the military command of the former USSR."

The usually restrained and taciturn General Staff of the CIS Joint Armed Forces was forced to join in the information skirmish. "The information about the commencement of combat operations involving personnel and hardware of units of Transcaucasus Military District troops does not tally with reality," they told an ITAR-TASS correspondent and repeated the well-known position that the leadership of the Joint Armed Forces abides by the line of noninterference in interethnic conflicts.

As we see, the "hot" war on Nagorno-Karabakh soil is accompanied by a propaganda war, which is trying to draw both CIS servicemen and the Russian leadership into the skirmish, but all these actions cannot bring victory.

There can be only one way out of the interethnic conflict in the Transcaucasus—goodwill, rejection of the use of force, patience, and courage in the negotiating process.

CIS Serviceman Killed

LD2502183292 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1724 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] Moscow, 25 Feb (ITAR-TASS)—One more CIS serviceman died in Nagorno-Karabakh today. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told this at the Nagorno-Karabakh internal affairs directorate.

The victim of the "Grad" salvo-fire rocket launcher [raketnaya ustanovka zalpovogo ognya "Grad"] used by the Azerbaijanis was a serviceman from a chemical warfare battalion stationed in Stepanakert (Khankendy). The battalion was fired on from the Azerbaijani village of Kesalar.

According to the Nagorno-Karabakh internal affairs directorate, two "Grad" launchers fired on Stepanakert today.

Regional Artillery Depot Raided in Agdam

LD2502204792 Moscow TASS in English 1620 GMT 25 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow February 25 TASS—A regional artillery depot in the suburbs of the Agdam city was attacked on February 23. The guards were disarmed by Azeri militants and the OMON [Special Purpose Militia Unit] special police unit with participation of the ethnic-Azeri guards commander.

It was the guards commander who removed sentries from their posts, sources at the CIS allied armed forces' press center told ITAR-TASS today.

According to the sources, no arms were used when seizing the depot, no victims were reported. The disarmed guards and depot personnel were taken to Gyandzha. A total of 57 automatic rifles and 22 small arms were seized.

Communications with the depot have been broken. Families of three servicemen, six officers and nine warrant officers remain at the depot.

Over the past 24 hours, the 366th Motorized Infantry Regiment stationed in Stepanakert has not been attacked or shelled. The press center has no information on possible withdrawal of the regiment from Nagorno-Karabakh.

'Terrorism' Charge Rejected

MK2602093292 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Feb 92 p 3

[Natalya Pachegina report under the general heading: "War: Armenian Leadership Accuses Azerbaijan of State Terrorism. Nothing of the Sort, Baku Replies"]

[Text] Official Azerbaijan has provided its assessment of the incident in Agdam. Oleg Aliyev, head of the Azerbaijan Ministry of National Security press center, said that the operation to transfer military hardware and equipment belonging to Soviet Army troop unit No. 4460 stationed in Agdam to the republic's Defense Ministry can hardly be described as seizure, much less is it appropriate to describe this as an act of state terrorism. The inventory and transfer of military equipment from the dump was to have been carried out under an accord

secured last week during talks between President Mutalibov and General Gromov and Admiral Chernavin, representatives of Shaposhnikov, commander of the CIS Armed Forces. In the president's presence they signed a document whereby the property of Soviet Army units on the republic's territory would be handed over to the Azerbaijan National Guard. Aliyev noted that the Agdam munitions dump, like the dump in Akstaf, is listed among those military subunits whose property will be handed over to Azerbaijan.

It emerges from the Ministry of National Security's information that the population of the city and refugees from Azerbaijani areas of Nagorno-Karabakh attempted to seize military equipment in Agdam. A fire broke out at the troop unit's headquarters. However, Ministry of National Security spokesman Aliyev said, the situation is under control. The weapons did not fall into civilian hands. In the opinion of the Azerbaijan Ministry of National Security's spokesman, there was an annoying misunderstanding in Agdam in which, he gave assurances, the Azerbaijan leadership has no interest whatsoever.

In conclusion the spokesman for the Azerbaijan Ministry of National Security press center made the following recommendations to the Armenians: "Armenia should remember where the 165 rocket-launched [reaktivnyy] flame throwers went that their thugs stole from the Soviet Army in 1990. In 1989-1990 Armenia stole 11,000 firearms and roughly 80 armored vehicles."

At the Azerbaijan People's Front [APF] press service, deputy chairman Niyazi Ibragimov showed his knowledge by saying that the handover of the military equipment in Agdam was carried out one the one hand by the command of the troop unit and, on the other, by Fakhmin Gadzhiyev, a representative of the Azerbaijan Defense Ministry and an ordinary member of the APF, in the presence of the local executive. Ibragimov described the Armenian side's information as incorrect. In particular, he denied the report that Dadash Rzayev, Azerbaijan deputy defense minister, took part in the Agdam "operation." According to Ibragimov, the latter could not have been in charge of the operation since he has been appointed commander of Geranboyskiy Rayon's defense at President Mutalibov's behest. What is more, Ibragimov said, "there are good relations between us and the command of troop units in the republic. Evidently the incident in Agdam was incited, otherwise why would officers quarrel with us," he concluded

The spokesman for the APF voiced doubts as to the reliability of the information about the seizure of arms of high destructive yield from the dump. Ibragimov said that shortly before President Mutalibov's decree on creating national armed forces was published in October 1991, containing an item about conducting an inventory of and nationalizing Soviet Army property in Azerbaijan, the units' command began to hastily remove hardware and equipment from the republic.

Nagorno-Karabakh Says Azerbaijan Inciting War

OW2502162892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1350 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Tuesday [25 February], the Interior Department of Nagorno-Karabakh issued a statement accusing Azerbaijan of attempts to involve Armenia in "a full-fledged war and present the conflict between Azerbaijan and the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic as a clash between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh."

The statement says Azerbaijan has repeatedly circulated "deliberate falsehoods about the Armenian army's alleged offensive on Azeri territory with the use of military hardware belonging to the 7th Army of the CIS armed forces." Such reports have repeatedly been refuted by both the CIS armed forces General Staff and Armenia's Defense Ministry and political leadership, says the statement.

Transfer of Army Units to Azerbaijan Delayed

LD2502145992 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1334 GMT 25 Feb 92

[From the "Military News" section: "Transfer of Army Units to Azerbaijan Is Delayed"—POSTFACTUM headline]

[Text] Baku—The placement of the military units of the 4th Army under Azerbaijan's command is obviously being postponed, said acting defense minister of the republic, Major General Shakhin Musayev, acting Azerbaijan's defense minister and chief of general staff of the armed forces, told PF [POSTFACTUM] correspondent on February 24: Up to now we have not received an answer from the commander in chief of the CIS Armed Forces Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov to the preliminary agreement dispatched to him on February 19, listing units and formations of the 4th Army that are to be passed over to us as well as the terms of the transfer, initialled by Azerbaijan Secretary of State Mitat Abasov and by representative of the commander in chief Colonel General Boris Gromov, and the transfer issue has been suspended...but despite all this we will press for fulfillment of the given preliminary agreement, but at the inter-state level already.

Neutrality of CIS Regiment Questioned

PM2602094092 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Feb 92 p 2

[Zaur Kadymbekov report: "Is the 366th Regiment in Stepanakert Neutral? PRAVDA Correspondent in Azerbaijan Reports"]

[Text] Baku—What role in the military conflict is being played by the 366th Motorized Infantry Regiment of the

former Soviet Army, which is still stationed in Khankendy (Stepanakert)? This question is moving from the TV screens to the central newspapers but has still not been clearly answered.

The top military leadership in the shape of Marshal Ye. Shaposhnikov has refuted Azerbaijani observers' claims that Soviet servicemen have been taking part in combat operations on the side of Armenian armed formations. The respected military chief's categorical position is giving rise to a chain of questions.

Number one: Are all the High Command's orders currently being unswervingly carried out by the Army? If so, does this mean that the flight by bombers from Ukraine to Russia was also at the High Command's orders?

Number two: Why is an entire regiment "standing idle" in Khankendy if it has no influence on the combat situation? And why then are the female residents of Khankendy bombarding the authorities with telegrams and are even prepared to throw themselves under tank tracks to stop the tanks being "removed from their place of deployment"?

Number three: Azerbaijani population centers are being bombarded by artillery pieces and attacked by tanks, infantry fighting vehicles [IFV], and armored personnel carriers [APC]. This is a fact which nobody today disputes. But how did this heavy equipment turn up in an enclave which is surrounded on all sides by other Azerbaijani areas?

When you analyze the reports coming in from various, mostly official, sources, a lot of questions arise. Several times a day there are unimpeded reports on all TV news programs about the bombardment of the city of Khankendy by the Azerbaijanis using "Uragan" rocket launchers. Specialists from the Transcaucacus Military District quickly investigated and determined that "Grad"-type weapons had been used. But nobody even dreamed of putting the following question to these specialists: The Azerbaijani side, constantly on the attack, retains a presence in Nagorno-Karabakh only in Shusha and Khodzhaly, which is besieged on all sides and has been mercilessly shelled. Who then totally destroyed, burned down, and wiped from the face of the earth more than 20 Azerbaijani population centers, destroying them and driving out more than 20,000 refugees?

"In February, 39 men from our unit in Nakhichevan were airlifted in to Khankendy by helicopter," Yuriy Fedorchuk of Zhitomir Oblast said at a Baku press conference for local and foreign journalists. "They were mainly drivers and missile launcher operators to repair and service the military hardware being fired against Azerbaijani villages. In the regiment itself there are quite a lot of servicemen of Armenian nationality—officers, warrant officers, draftees, and extended-service personnel. By threats and force of arms they have been making the Russians take part in operations mounted by the gunmen—who include foreigners, as we have seen for ourselves. We did not want to take sides in the conflict and deserted from the unit to the Azerbaijani village of Malybeyli with a view to reaching Agdam and then going home. We did not know that it was cut off on all sides—even helicopters were not getting through. There were many women and children in the village, guarded, apart from local men armed at best with double-barreled shotguns, by 15-20 militiamen toting submachine guns. They could not, of course, hold the village when faced with an onslaught from heavy artillery, mortars, and "Alazan" rockets. Two IFV's [infantry fighting vehicle] and two APC's from the 366th Regiment took part in the attack on the village. Together with the villagers we took more than 24 hours to get out of the area. We lost three of our comrades—they were shot by Armenian gunmen when they approached them waving the white flag to ask them to allow women and children through. Many of the civilian population too were killed or wounded. And five of the militiamen who had protected us were killed too."

That is eyewitness testimony. Apart from Yura, we were given eyewitness accounts of their experiences by Dima Razdiyevskiy of Rostov, Alesha Kasatkin of Yaroslavl, Lenya Tkalich of the Crimea, Yaroslav Sheremet of Kharkov, and Kolya Karpenyuk of Kiev Oblast—I have named them to allow their parents to stop worrying. Your children are alive and well and will hopefully be coming home soon.

I still have one last question: Just who comprised the military subunits before they set off for Khankendy? Can representatives of one of the parties be used in "neutral" troops whose aim is, if not to divide the parties, at least not to get involved in the conflict?

Georgia

Sigua Reaffirms Intention To Leave Politics

MK2502090092 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 25 Feb 92 p 1

["Interview for the Edition" with Tengiz Sigua, prime minister of the Georgian Provisional Government, by L. Dolidze; date and place not given; first paragraph is introduction: "Tengiz Sigua Withdrawing To Take Up Science"]

[Text] Our correspondent asked Tengiz Sigua, prime minister of the Georgian Provisional Government, to answer some questions.

[Dolidze] Mr. Sigua, over the last few days interest in Shevardnadze has increased drastically again. Does the Provisional Government intend to make use of his tremendous international prestige and great creative potential?

[Sigua] I have said on several occasions that Shevardnadze can return to Georgia at any time and take part in its political life. He is a prominent politician with international recognition. And he could indeed do a

great deal for Georgia. It was not for nothing that he was elected honorary chairman of the Georgian Democratic Party. Incidentally, I am sure that this party will nominate him as one of its deputies in the coming Georgian parliamentary elections.

[Dolidze] You said recently that you would refuse a future political career.

[Sigua] Yes, I have made a final decision to renounce my involvement in the coming elections for the Georgian Supreme Council. The Provisional Government will resign at the first session of the next parliament, and I will go back to scientific work. I headed the Georgian Academy of Sciences Metallurgy Institute before holding a government post.

[Dolidze] What is your opinion of Iran, Syria, and Turkey recruiting mercenaries [nayemnik] in Azerbaijan and Armenia?

[Sigua] I personally am opposed to mercenaries. This could have unpredictable consequences and even develop into a war that could involve not just the Transcaucasus.

Asks Shevardnadze To Return

LD2602105192 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0800 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] The temporary premier of Georgia, Tengiz Sigua, has asked Eduard Shevardnadze to return to the republic and take part in its political life. The former USSR foreign minister had been Georgia's leader for many years. According to public opinion polls, Eduard Shevardnadze is today the most popular politician in the republic and ex-President Zviad Gamsakhurdia is the seventh on the list.

Shevardnadze has been elected honorary chairman of the Democratic Party of Georgia and the party intends to nominate him to run in the coming parliamentary elections as its candidate.

Pro-Gamsakhurdia Supporters Continue Rallies

AU2502161092 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1400 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Text] The situation has again become tense in certain regions of western Georgia. This morning our correspondent informed us from Tsalenjikha that rallies in support of the former president are being held daily in the rayon's center. At yesterday's rally, Walter Shurgaia [Zugdidi civil disobedience campaign headquarters chief and former Georgian Supreme Council deputy] called upon the population to engage in civil disobedience.

In general, the rayon's population is in a helpless situation. Schools are closed and enterprises, establishments, and [word indistinct] medical organizations are not functioning. No bread has been baked for almost one week due to the lack of fuel oil. There is no republican press.

Recently, representatives of the National Guard arrested one bandit group. An investigation is underway.

Fighting, Supply Problem in South Ossetia

LD2602104192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0900 GMT 26 Feb 92

[Text] Alarming reports have again begun to come in from South Ossetia. According to data from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, distant approaches to Tskhinvali and military camps again came under fire from the direction of the Georgian villages of Nikozi, Tamarasheni, Eredvi, and the outskirts of the populated areas of neighboring Goriyskiy Rayon. There is no information about casualties. The Ossetian side returned fire to neutralize the guerrillas' firing points.

The provision of vital supplies to South Ossetia is an acute problem. All the bypass roads along which humanitarian aid was supplied from Vladikavkaz are cut off by the guerrillas. The main Transcaucasian transport highway is temporarily closed due to abundant snowfalls, snowdrifts, and avalanches. Several tractors today made their way with great difficulty through the Rokskiy tunnel; however, large capacity motor vehicles carrying foodstuffs are still unable to reach the village of Dzhava.

CIS Soldier Killed

OW2502172592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1350 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A private of one of the CIS army units stationed in South Ossetia's administrative center Tskhinvali died on Monday [24 February] night as a result of fire attacks from the direction of the Georgian villages of Nikozi, Eredvi and Tergneti. A warrant officer and a lieutenant of the same unit, and two schoolgirls were shot and wounded, IF's [INTERFAX's] correspondent was told by the North Ossetian KGB.

Socio-Economic Situation 'Critical'

LD2202113192 Moscow TASS in English 1109 GMT 21 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz February 21 TASS—"The socio-economic situation in the region is critical," South Ossetian Council of Ministers Felix Zaseyev said here today. This is explained by the fact that there is no transport communication with South Ossetia for two weeks now. All the main highways, formerly used to deliver humanitarian aid from Vladikavkaz, are saddled by Georgian militants. Moreover, the Transcaucasian automobile road and all by-ways are blocked by snow.

"South Ossetia is badly in need of material aid," Zaseyev stressed. "Food, medicines and fuel are running out in Tskhinvali. The local bakery factory had to be stopped. The Russian Government has provided food for the Republic, but, unfortunately, it is impossible to deliver it promptly to the blockaded town.

It was relatively quiet in the region last night. According to the South Ossetian Interior Ministry, there were no armed clashes or abductions of hostages. However, firing was continued from Gory district at dwelling areas and interior troops' checkpoints. No Assetian casualties were reported.

Abkhazia To Examine 'Emergency Regime'

LD2502142692 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Report by YUG INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent Rezo Georgiobiani]

[Text] Vladislav Ardzinba, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Abkhazia, said there will soon be a routine session of the republic's Supreme Soviet at which participants will examine the question of the introduction in Abkhazia of an emergency regime for citizens' behavior. The identities of those who blew up a railway bridge and dismantled the permanent roadway 26 km from Sukhumi have not yet been established. That was the third terrorist action in the past eight days.

Students and senior pupils continue their strike in Sukhumi, and residents of Abkhazia and western Georgia are participating in it. As is known, the majority of deputies of the Supreme Soviet of Abkhazia do not support that protest action. The town public is waiting anxiously to see how the participants will react to the introduction of the decree on an emergency regime for citizens' behavior in Sukhumi. It has not been ruled out that supporters of the former president will exploit that decree to further destabilize the situation in the republic.

The press center of the Provisional Government of the Republic of Georgia has circulated a statement which says that more and more rumors alleging that ex-President Zviad Gamsakhurdia is in Georgia are being spread. These inventions are playing into the hands of those who have an interest in destabilizing the situation in the Republic.

At present, the statement says, Zviad Gamsakhurdia is in Groznyy where, together with Dzhakhar Dudayev, he plans to create a united armed forces of the Transcaucasus to stand up against Russia. A Cossack army has begun to form in Stavropol Kray in response to that decision.

The situation in Tbilisi remains tense. Gela Lanchava, military commandant of the city of Tbilisi, said he has learned that diversionist groups have arrived in Tbilisi and Sukhumi from Chechnya with orders to carry out terrorist actions. The group that will operate in Tbilisi is made up of 20 people, including 12 Chechens and eight Georgians. These people were trained in Dzhokar Dudayev's special units. The Tbilisi garrison and law enforcement bodies have been mobilized to eliminate the terrorists. The military commandant has appealed to Tbilisi residents not to take part in rallies planned for today, 25 February, by supporters of Zviad Gamsakhurdia since there may be armed people among those at the rallies. As far as we know, they plan to carry out a provocation, he said, and to use peaceful citizens to this end.

Caucasus Group Offers Troops

LD2502183792 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 25 Feb 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] (Aslanbekov), a Chechen parliament deputy, said on Abkhaz television that the Confederation of Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus is prepared to take its troops into Abkhazia to put an end to clashes between Georgian troops and supporters of Gamsakhurdia. This information comes from STUDINFORM.

Shevardnadze Notes West's Investment Interest

LD1702232192 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1814 GMT 17 Feb 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Moscow—Eduard Shevardnadze: Georgia's mineral resources are short and the main wealth of Georgia is the intellectual level of her people.

I know a lot of people in business circles of the U.S. and European countries, who are ready to start large-scale financial investments in the Georgian economy in case there are appropriate conditions inside the republic: Stabilization of and adherence to democratic principles of society development, Eduard Shevardnadze told in an interview for the Georgian TV on February 16. According to Shevardnadze, the most keen interest is shown by Germany, France, UK and U.S.

Document on Terms of Relations With Iran

AU1702140692 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 15 Feb p 1

[Memorandum on the Establishment of Political Contacts and the Principles of Economic and Cultural Cooperation Between the Republic of Georgia and the Islamic Republic of Iran signed on 6 February in Tehran: "The Islamic Republic of Iran Recognizes Georgia"]

[Text] **During the days of the anniversary of the Islamic revolution, from 31 January until 6 February 1992, governmental negotiations were held in the city of Tehran between the Republic of Georgia and the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Republic of Georgia was represented by Academician Tamaz Gamkrelidze and the Islamic**

Republic of Iran by A. Besharati, first deputy foreign minister. On 6 February, the sides signed a memorandum between the Republic of Georgia and the Islamic Republic of Iran on the establishment of diplomatic relations and on the principles of economic and cultural cooperation. The memorandum was signed on behalf of the Georgian side by Gamkrelidze and on behalf of the Iranian side by B. Kasemi.

MEMORANDUM **on the Establishment of Political Contacts and the Principles of Economic and Cultural Cooperation Between the Republic of Georgia and the Islamic Republic of Iran.**

Academician Tengiz Gamkrelidze, member of the Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers Political Consultative Council and plenipotentiary of the Provisional Government of Georgia, was in the Islamic Republic of Iran from 31 January until 6 February, correspondingly from 11-17 Bakhman 1370 AH [as published], at the invitation of the government.

During this visit, Gamkrelidze conducted negotiations with A. Besharati, first deputy minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and B. Kasemi, head of the first department of East Europe attached to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Islamic Republic of Iran recognizes the independence of the Republic of Georgia and its territorial integrity and supports the principles of equality, mutual respect, and noninterference in each other's internal affairs.

Taking into account the wishes expressed during the course of the negotiations on the expansion of economic and cultural contacts, both sides have agreed:

ARTICLE One: To establish friendly contacts and cooperation in various directions between the Republic of Georgia and the Islamic Republic of Iran; to open in the future corresponding embassies in Tbilisi and Teheran and to create the appropriate conditions for this.

ARTICLE Two: Taking into account the necessity of regular governmental contacts at different levels, the sides will try to facilitate to the maximum the development and expansion of political, economic, and cultural ties.

ARTICLE Three: The Republic of Georgia and the Islamic Republic of Iran, declaring the expediency of establishing and expanding those ties mentioned in the second article of the memorandum, in connection with this, consider it necessary that, following the signing of the given memorandum, consultations between the sides be held within one month and a joint commission be created that will study the wishes expressed on cooperation in the spheres of transport, industry, fuel and gas (particularly on the supply of Iranian natural gas and transportation), power engineering, agriculture, and trade and will outline paths and means of implementing economic, scientific, and technical interrelations.

ARTICLE Four: During the course of the negotiations, the Georgian side raised the question of the immediate supply of gas to Georgia amounting to 2 (two) billion cubic meters; with the aim of studying this question on the spot and satisfying this request, the Iranian side will send experts to Georgia at the first opportunity.

ARTICLE Five: In connection with the question of developing cooperation in the sphere of culture and cultural ties, the sides have agreed to create a joint coordinating commission that will facilitate the implementation of the appropriate measures.

This memorandum was signed on 6 February 1992, correspondingly on 17 Bakhman 1370 AH, in the city of Teheran in two copies, one in Georgian and one in Persian, both of which have equal force in law.

UN To Establish Regional Rescue Center

LD2602103692 Moscow TASS in English 1908 GMT 25 Feb 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Igor Gvrtishvili and Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi February 25 TASS—The office of the U.N. Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO) has expressed the readiness to include the Georgian Santeli (candle) rescue center in its system, Santeli head Teimuraz Kusishvili told a news conference here today.

In his words, the UNDRO plans to set up an international rescue center in Georgia to control the Transcaucasia, Asia Minor and the Middle East. The center's core will be the Santeli, whose selfless and highly professional actions during earthquakes in Armenia and Georgia and natural calamities in Adzharia and Southern Ossetia were praised by U.N. specialists.

Royal Family Member on Monarchy Referendum

AU2602110892 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 22 Feb 92 p 2

[Address to the Georgian nation by Mariam Bagration-Mukhranbatoni issued in Madrid on 15 February: "Again on the Restoration of the Royal Throne That Has Been Blessed by God"]

[Text] On 15 February, Batoni [Georgian polite form of address] Kakha Todua, chairman of the Georgian Youth Economic Charity Initiative, received by fax from Spain an address to the Georgian nation from Kalbatoni Mariam Bagration-Mukhranbatoni (sister of Giorgi and Bagrati, the direct heirs to the Georgian royal throne). She requested that Batoni Kakha Todua, with whom she has been acquainted for two years, help her to convey this address to the Georgian public.

Address to the Georgian Nation!

Dear Compatriots!

As you know, at the dawn of the 19th century, a time of misfortune for our country, fate separated the Bagrationi name from the Georgian royal throne, a name that for many centuries selflessly served the national interests. This was followed by the loss of Georgia's independence. Since that time, for almost two centuries, the tragedy of Georgia and its people has continued. For the whole of this time, the Bagrationis also have continued to be persecuted and oppressed. These reversals of fortune were not enough for us and we finally found ourselves banished far from our motherland. We are the descendants of precisely one of these Bagrationi refugees. In spite of the great distance that separates us from our motherland, here in distant Spain, we always follow with great attention the current events in Georgia, and the struggle of the Georgian nation for independence, and we keenly feel any small or great misfortune.

Our attention has been directed to the debate kindled in the Georgian press on the restoration of the monarchy in Georgia, specifically on the expediency of introducing a constitutional monarchy. In connection with this, as one representative of the Bagrationi name, I consider it necessary to publically state my opinion in the hope that it will somehow help clarify the situation that has taken shape. I would like from the start to inform you that I am not opposed to the establishment of a constitutional monarchy in Georgia and I remain a supporter of the ideas of monarchism. However, at the same time, I fully share the opinion that has been circulating recently in Georgian society that it is only the whole of our nation that has the moral right to express its wish through a referendum on whether the monarchy should or should not be restored in Georgia, although it will only be a parliament that has been formed as a result of fresh elections that will have the legal right to hold such a referendum.

Therefore, it is premature to discuss this subject now. The fact that everyone has the right to pay a private visit to his homeland and to try in every way to do his little bit for the benefit of his native country and people is quite another matter.

I would like to inform you that it was with this aim that I was already once in Georgia several months ago. I did not want my visit to Georgia to resemble some well-organized show with all the accompanying hustle and bustle. Therefore, I tried in every way to conduct my visit in a businesslike manner and without any fuss. On my return to Spain, I took several practical steps to resolve those problems that I had openly discussed during my stay in Georgia; in particular, I had meetings with Spanish political circles in connection with speeding up international recognition of Georgia. Now that the country is again facing difficult days, in spite of certain problems, I cannot refrain from visiting Georgia again in a private capacity in order to gain on the spot a better understanding of the existing problems and, together with you, search for the quickest ways of extricating Georgia from its economic crisis.

Until the aforementioned referendum is held, I believe that it is only in such a way that I can help the Georgian people during this time of misfortune and make my modest contribution to the complex and important matter of the country's prosperity!

God be with you!

[Signed] Yours respectfully, Mariam Bagration-Mukhranbatoni

[Issued] Madrid, 15 February 1992.

Latvia

Jurkans Discusses Relations With Commonwealth

AU2502125292 Prague RESPEKT in Czech No 7 (17-23 Feb 92) p 10

[Interview with Foreign Minister Janis Jurkans by Tomas Karabela and Pavel Stol; place and date not given: "I Am Afraid of Radicalization"]

[Text] [RESPEKT] Mr. Jurkans, Latvia has finally freed itself of the Soviet empire and is an internationally recognized independent state. What is the current state of relations between Latvia and the Community of Independent States?

[Jurkans] You said that "Latvia has freed itself." In reality, however, it is free only on paper. It remains greatly dependent on the CIS, both economically and militarily. We cannot speak about independence before the last Soviet soldier has left our territory. This is primarily a political problem because it seems—when you look at the overall political changes in the former USSR—that the CIS is only a great fiction. It came into being in order to be able to get rid of Gorbachev, but also to pacify the people in the former USSR and in the rest of the world.

In reality, this community has neither a legal nor any other foundation. If Ukraine and Belarus do not create a serious political and economic structure with the Russian Federation—and I am of the opinion that this will not happen—it will be exceedingly difficult for Russia to leave the Baltic states. As a matter of fact, it can hardly be expected to do so as this would mean losing one of its access routes to Europe and the military bases in the Baltic Sea.

As regards our eastern neighbors, because of the enormous political and economic chaos there it is impossible to speak of any serious cooperation yet. As long as the CIS countries do not come to grips with this chaos, serious cooperation will be a question of the distant future. Our horizon is limited by the need to "put out fires." We are dealing only with pragmatic problems such as securing grain, feed, or fuel.

[RESPEKT] How do you intend to deal with the presence of the occupation army and with the continuing raw material and economic dependence on the states of the former USSR?

[Jurkans] The presence of Soviet troops in the Baltic states is an economic as well as political problem. No matter how perfect the laws the Latvian parliament passes are, no matter how much we transform our economy with the aim of creating a free market, we will not be able to improve and develop our infrastructure without foreign investment. Foreign capital will not, however, flow into a country that is occupied by foreign troops and that is not politically stable. It is a vicious circle: We could start a new economic life, but lack investment resources because of the continuing occupation. At the same time, we even lack the money to pay for the occupiers' return ticket.

Our already critical economic situation is made even worse by the collapse of the Soviet economy. Old structures are passing away without new ones taking their place, and our economic life is disintegrating. We have started liquidating the central command system in agriculture, with the result that today we must satisfy the needs of the market by importing food.

The political situation in a country stricken by economic collapse naturally becomes more radical. This process is very serious and I am afraid that it could set us back. In every crisis situation one looks for a scapegoat, and the Army and the Russians are the most likely candidates at this moment. There is a tendency among our radicals to polarize society. Such a society, however, would lose its attractiveness for foreign investors and be unable to successfully tackle its economic problems.

The Latvian nation must come to understand that, by living in a conflict-ridden relationship with the non-Latvian population, it will not be able to develop its culture and possibly even fail to maintain its own identity.

[RESPEKT] What will happen if the economic situation keeps deteriorating?

[Jurkans] Addressing the Prague meeting of the CSCE countries' ministers of foreign affairs [held on 30 and 31 January], my Estonian colleague Lennart Meri warned that if the economic collapse continues and the government will not be able to secure food supplies for the Soviet Army, the soldiers might "take" food on their own. He called for a peace corps to be sent to Estonia. Should dissatisfied workers take to the streets (in the case of Latvia, these would be mostly people of Russian nationality), I do not rule out possible Army intervention.

[RESPEKT] What specific steps is Latvia taking to end the Soviet military occupation?

[Jurkans] The departure of foreign troops is an international issue, which we will not be able to resolve without foreign support. The great powers' attention is focused on developments in the CIS, particularly on the question of nuclear weapons, and as a result the departure of Soviet troops from the Baltic states has slowed. High ranking Russian Army officials can already be heard saying that, supposedly, they will want to keep military bases even after the troops' departure.

[RESPEKT] What is the present orientation of Latvian foreign policy?

[Jurkans] The political map of Europe is changing. The cold war has ended, the Soviet Union has fallen apart, and new structures are appearing. I believe that, in the long run, a single strong center will emerge in Europe—possibly along the Paris-Berlin-Vienna axis—plus four to

five regional centers. The states around the Baltic Sea could form one such center.

The foreign ministers of these countries will meet in Copenhagen on 5 and 6 March to set up a regional coordinating body. The future will show the success and viability of this idea. At the moment we want to become integrated in the existing European political and economic structures and, within a few months, we want to join the treaty on European trade cooperation. We hope that Latvia will join the International Monetary Fund and World Bank this summer.

We are not forgetting our eastern neighbors, because the failure of their democratization process would also thwart our hopes. We established diplomatic relations with the Russian Federation last October and with Ukraine this month. The date for establishing diplomatic relations with Belarus has not been determined yet.

Defense Minister Says Militants Buying Tanks

OW2502213092 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1915 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Speaking at a meeting of the Latvian Popular Front, Latvian Defense Minister Talavs Jundzis claimed that militants from Transcaucasus are buying tanks at military units of the former Baltic Military District.

The Latvian Defense Ministry argues that units of of the former Soviet Union's Army are now actively selling arms.

However, in an interview with the newspaper "DIENA" head of the Northwestern Group of Forces' press center Golin denied this information.

Statement Issued on Recall of Chinese Ambassador

OW2502212892 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1915 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In connection with the Chinese Government's decision to recall Chinese ambassador to Latvia Chen Di, the Latvian Government has made an official statement. It points out that Latvia's foreign policy is aimed at creating good relations with all states which have friendly feelings toward Latvia, recognize its independence and are ready to help overcome its difficulties.

Proceeding from this concept, the Latvian Foreign Ministry decided to accept Taiwan's proposal to establish consular, i.e. non-diplomatic, bilateral relations in order to make Taiwan's assistance to Latvia more effective. The Latvian Foreign Ministry believes there is no interference with the conflict between Taiwan and China, since Chinese-Latvian relationship strictly abides by diplomatic norms. The Latvian Foreign Ministry wants to preserve diplomatic relations with China and business relations with Taiwan.

NATO Official Discusses Cooperation

OW2602030992 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1915 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The relations of the Baltic nations with NATO is a political question which will be discussed during a visit to Latvia by Secretary General of NATO Manfred Woerner in March of this year. The Deputy Commander of the NATO Armed Forces in Europe Brian Kenny speaking in Riga Tuesday [25 February] expressed certainty that the cooperation between the republic and and NATO will grow. Kenny also said that he was briefed on the defence concept of the republic at a meeting with the Chairman of the Latvian Supreme Soviet Anatolijs Gorbunovs and the Minister of Defence Talavs Jundzis. Kenny stated that NATO's new strategic concept is based on dialogue and cooperation rather than confrontation. It provides for expanding the structures of NATO to include countries of central and eastern Europe, the Baltic and former USSR nations. Immediate talks on Latvia's induction into NATO are not possible at present as joining the 16 member nations of the organization requires serious reworking of the budget and infrastructure. Kenny said that admitting one nation into the current system would destabilize the situation in Europe. Kenny favors Latvia's contacts with NATO as well as the EC and CSCE.

Lithuania

Landsbergis Statement on Army Withdrawal Viewed

LD2502133392 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2200 GMT 24 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Various Lithuanian officials have expressed concern about the announced start of withdrawal of the former Soviet Army troops from Lithuania. It is not the real start of the withdrawal of the former Soviet Army from the territory of Lithuania, notes a statement disseminated on behalf of the Lithuanian parliamentary leader Vytautas Landsbergis.

Commenting on news agency reports concerning the start of the withdrawal of the Army from Lithuanian territory, Landsbergis notes that it was agreed on 17 January with Russian President Boris Yeltsin that the Army would first withdraw from the capital, Vilnius. We would truly hail that, but there is currently no evidence of such a process having started. We would like a truly fresh view and faster decisions, notes the statement by Landsbergis.

It was officially announced last week that on 25 February the anti-aircraft defense division stationed in Mickunai, near Vilnius, would start withdrawing. Lithuanian

defense officials are doubtful whether the announced withdrawal is in keeping with the agreement, taking into account the fact that withdrawal would be considered an accomplished fact even if the former deployment site of one unit or another is just transferred over for use by the Republic of Lithuania.

Certain well-informed officials think that the withdrawing anti-aircraft defense division from Mickunai will first arrive in Vilnius. Later it will be withdrawn to Belarussian territory, by the same road, creating the appearance that the Army is being withdrawn from Vilnius.

Late this evening, BALTIC NEWS SERVICE reported that Colonel Vladimir Gerasimov, Mickunai anti-aircraft defense division commander, stated that this unit will not begin withdrawal until Thursday, 27 February. As if that were not enough, the unit will not go to Belarus, but to Vilnius. The unit's withdrawal from Lithuania will only commence on the night of 3-4 March. The reasons prompting such decisions are not known. According to the division commander, only the official farewell festivities will take place tomorrow.

If things take the course described by Col Gerasimov, it would amount to a crude violation by Russia of the interstate agreement on the start of the Army's withdrawal. [passage omitted]

Addressing a seminar, Defense Minister Audrius Butkevicius gave the first official disclosure of his estimate of the number of former Soviet troops deployed in Lithuania. Minister Butkevicius says he has information attesting to the deployment of 35,000 soldiers, including 8,000 officers and non-commissioned officers. [passage omitted]

Details of Negotiations

LD2502224292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Commentary by Andrey Krasnov]

[Text] [Announcer Aleksey Abakumov] The postponement of the withdrawal of troops from Lithuania, which was to have started on 25 February, was the main event of the day. A new date for the departure of the Russian Army from Mickunai—near Vilnius—has been announced. Here is how this event is viewed by Radio Rossii observer Andrey Krasnov.

[Krasnov] For a long time the dialogue between Moscow and the Baltic republics resembled the conversation between two deaf people. The Balts were constantly demanding the immediate withdrawal of the former USSR Army from their territory, while in Moscow they were playing for time. As long ago as December of last year the Baltic states appealed to the United Nations to pressure Russia, and Vytautas Landsbergis spoke of the threat of a conspiracy by the Soviet Army and the KGB. Apparently things had at last started moving. Three weeks ago, Sergey Shakhray, an adviser to Russia's president, made a trip to the Baltic republics and, as was reported, at the talks with the Baltic leaders he succeeded in reaching a compromise.

However, as it is becoming clear, each side understands it in its own way. At least at the present stage it has not been possible to agree on the date for the withdrawal of Armed Forces from Lithuania. It was announced today that probably the first subunit of the Armed Forces under Russia's jurisdiction will leave Lithuanian territory on 3 March. During the next week Russian and Lithuanian experts are to look into property problems. But even this date, in the view of the commander of the antiaircraft batallion stationed in Mickunai, is not realistic. In an interview on today's evening news, he stated that all dates being fixed are explained to a greater extent by politics than common sense. Briefly, it is unlikely that the departure of the Russian Army from Lithuania will pass without a hitch. There clearly will not be any flowers and crying women. But, nevertheless, the chances of divorcing without disgrace increased considerably today. One way or another, the lengthy process of the redeployment in stages of the Armed Forces from Lithuania has neverthless started.

The paradox lies in the fact that the present divorce is hitting not only Moscow but also Vilnius. The withdrawal of the former Union's Armed Forces automatically presents the Lithuanian leadership with a whole range of problems that are difficult to resolve. First, the Lithuanian leaders lose an internal enemy who previously united the nation around the present leadership. There is one more obvious consequence of the forthcoming withdrawal of the Russian troops from the Baltic republics: the West's interest in the problems of the Baltic republics will decline with the departure of our soldiers.

But all this in the future. For the time being the departure of the Army is being postponed. It would seem that on both sides the deafness is not yet finally over.

Departure Ceremony Observed

OW2502154592 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1402 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Lithuanian parliament press officer, Audrius Azubalis, said today that the Lithuanian government had been given no official notice concerning the beginning of the withdrawal of an anti-aircraft division from Mickunai.

Yesterday the division commander, Col. [Colonel] Vladimir Gerasimov, said that nothing but an official departure ceremony had been scheduled for today. The actual withdrawal would only start on the 27th. The unit

would temporarily be stationed in Vilnius and would be taken out of Lithuania on the night of March 3 and in the early hours of the 4th.

Azubalis said the Lithuanian government could not understand why Russia failed to observe the agreements it had signed, according to which one of the units was to leave Lithuania in February.

Vytautas Landsbergis said yesterday: "Russian President Boris Yeltsin and I decided on January 17 that the forces stationed in our capital, Vilnius, would be the first to be withdrawn."

Baltic Border Commander Appeals to Landsbergis

OW2502153892 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1402 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The commander of the Baltic Border Guard District, Lt.- Gen. [Lieutenant-General] Gaponenko, has sent a telegram to Vytautas Landsbergis informing the latter that Moscow forbids the forces he is in charge of to give the Klaipeda border checkpoint to Lithuania.

"In the last few days," the telegram reads, "officers from the border guard service of the Lithuanian Republic have been insistently demanding to take over border protection and that the buildings at some of the border guard bases be given over to the service to be used as barracks for Lithuanian border guards."

"Attempts have been made," Gaponenko goes on, "to seize some of these buildings by force, something that may destabilize the situation and have undesirable consequences.

Gaponenko asks Landsbergis to use his "usual perseverance and his vast prestige to start negotiations with the Russian Federation in order to discuss the transfer of border protection and border guards' buildings to the border guard service of the Lithuanian Republic."

Meanwhile there was still some tension with the Klaipeda-Muckran (Germany) ferry service this morning. The ferries have been inspected by Lithuanian border guards since Saturday [22 February], whereas the Russian border guards are letting no one on the checkpoint premises, where the chief of the border guard service of the Lithuanian Defense Ministry, Stanislovas Stanchikas, and two local border guard officers are on a protest hunger strike.

Alleged Belarussian Claims on Territory Denied

OW2502145292 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1402 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Our correspondent has been told at the press service of the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry that today (February 25) one of the ministry officials has had a telephone conversation with Belarussian Foreign Minister Petr Kravchenko, who said Belarus had no claims to Lithuanian territory.

REUTER, however, has reported that yesterday, at a meeting with a European Community delegation in Minsk, the Belarussian minister said his country did have such claims.

Supreme Council Approves 1992 Budget Revenues

LD2602041592 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2200 GMT 25 Feb 92

[Excerpts] The Lithuanian parliament today approved the current year's state budget revenues. [passage omitted including indistinct portions]

Compared to the earlier draft, budget revenues have been increased in excess of one billion [currency not specified]. Taxes, interest for state capital, and other sources are expected to provide these additional revenues. It is expected that the state budget will gain R850 million in revenues just by raising the general excise tax. The tax will increase from 15 to 18 percent on 1 July. Having approved the state budget revenues after long discussion, its expenditures are being dealt with further. A majority of the deputies have already voted for a 15 percent cut in parliamentary expenditures. The funds earmarked in the draft for financing the Supreme Council Protection Section have been cut by 60 percent. [passage omitted]